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September-October
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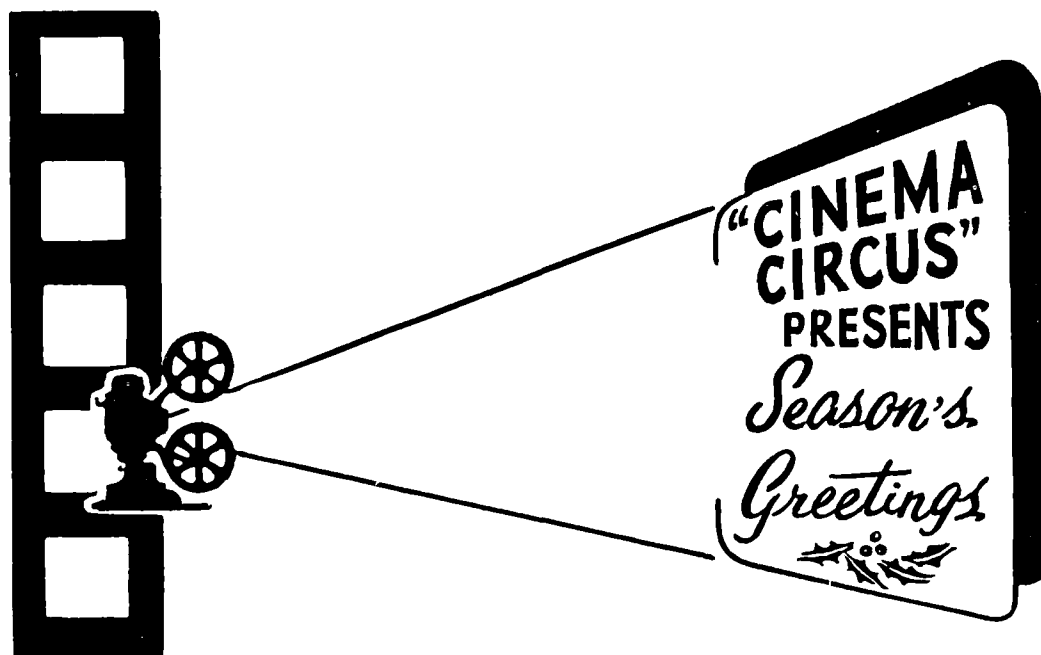
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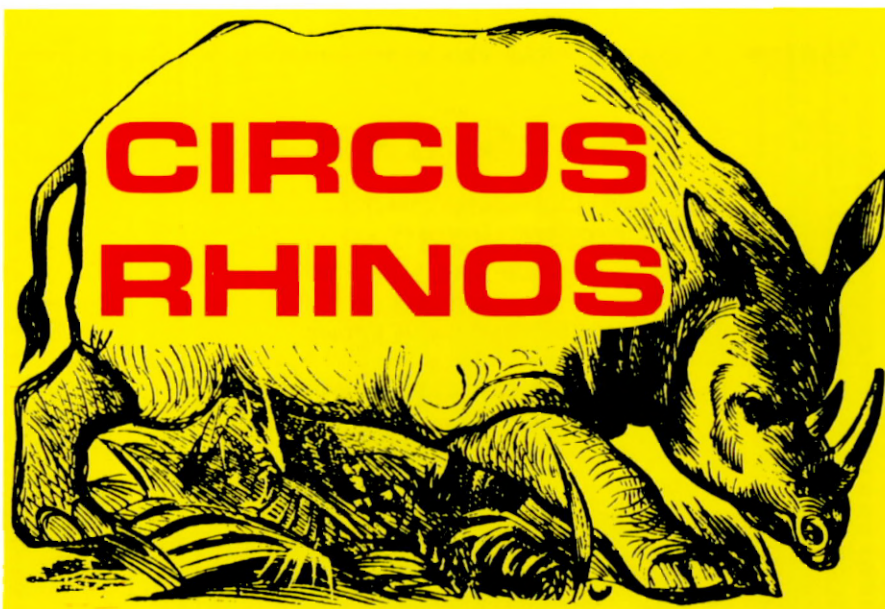
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By Richard J. Reynolds

Since the turn of the century, the rhinoceros has been the rarest of the "big three" menagerie attractions in the American circus, the other two being the giraffe and hippo. However, this has not always been the case. During the first half of the nineteenth century, the rhino was well known to the menagerie visitor while the giraffe and hippo remained relatively unknown.

With the passage of years the situation changed. As we will see, the exhibition of rhinos by American circuses reached its peak during the 1870s. Thereafter, fewer and fewer of these great beasts found their way to the circus menagerie. By contrast, the turn of the century saw giraffes and hippos becoming more common, particularly the "river horses." Two factors contributed to this change;

(1) problems of transporting and caring for giraffes and hippos were solved and (2) always less numerous in the wild than the other two, rhinos have become even scarcer over the years. Of all the large mammals of the world, rhinos are the most threatened with extinction.

It will be the purpose of this monograph to discuss the rhinos that have been exhibited by American circuses. To begin, I must point out that the mere identification of a given circus animal as a "rhinoceros" tells very little, for there are no less than five distinct species or types, three in Asia and two in Africa. Each differs from the other in appearance and in some cases the contrast is striking, as will be noted from the accompanying illustrations. However, to those interested in the history of wild animals in captivity, the most significant difference relates to the comparative rarity of the various species. It will be necessary, therefore, to point out some of the individual characteristics of the various rhinos, to-wit:

ASIATIC RHINOS

1. Great Indian Rhino (one horn)

This is the most awesome looking of these beasts. Its unusual skin, which appears to be arranged in sections and held together by rivet-like protuberances, properly gives it the name "armored" rhino. It has only one horn which in captive examples

No. 1 "OLD PUT," the trained Great Indian Rhinoceros who was a feature of the Dan Rice Circus from 1855 to 1861. This photo

is more than 100 years old. Note the rope attached to a ring in the rhino's nose. While the man in the picture is unidentified, he is

definitely not Dan Rice. [Photograph through the courtesy of the Hertzberg Circus Collection of the San Antonio, Texas Public Library.]



is frequently worn down by rubbing against the walls of the cage. The single horn gives rise to the name "unicorn," a moniker used by many of the early menageries to describe this rhino.

The Indian rhino has long been known to western man and was the first rhino to come into captivity in modern time, an example having arrived in Lisbon, Portugal in 1515 as a gift to King Emmanuel from the King of Cambay, India. The Indian species was certainly the first type rhino to be shown with an American menagerie, and it was probably the only species brought to our shores until after the Civil War. The approach of the twentieth century saw the "unicorn" rapidly fade away in the face of incessant poaching and hunting. This resulted in the disappearance of the beast from the circus menagerie. Only the richest and very biggest of the shows could afford the tremendous price for such a rarity. And, the Ringling Brothers of Baraboo, were the only post-1900 showmen willing to risk the \$5,000 (circa 1900 price) to \$10,000 (circa 1923 price) necessary to purchase the beast. They bought a male in 1907 who became well known as "Old Bill" by the time of his death in 1926. There has been no circus Indian rhino since his demise over 42 years ago.

Indian rhinos are perhaps the most prized of all zoo and menagerie attractions. They are huge beasts, the males standing up to six feet at the shoulder and weighing 4,500 pounds. This makes the Indian rhino just a shade under Africa's white rhino as the largest of the family. The Indian rhino is found only in limited areas of Nepal and India's Assam and West Bengal states. Most of them live in game preserves which have temporarily saved them from extinction. In 1966 the world population numbered about 780 examples: 40 in captivity and 740 in the wild.

The first successful birth of an Indian rhino took place at the Basel, Switzerland zoo in 1956. Since then, the Swiss zoo has produced no less than seven additional calves, a remarkable achievement. Other Indian rhinos have been bred and born at Hagenbeck's Hamburg zoo (2 calves, both born to a female sent to Basel for breeding); London's Whipsnade Park (2 calves); and I have heard that just recently a calf was born at the Mysore Zoo in Southern India. In January 1967, a pair at the Milwaukee zoo produced a calf, and while it failed to survive, it was the first Indian rhino ever born in America.

2. Javan Rhino (one horn)

This rhino, also called the "lesser one horned rhino" is considered the

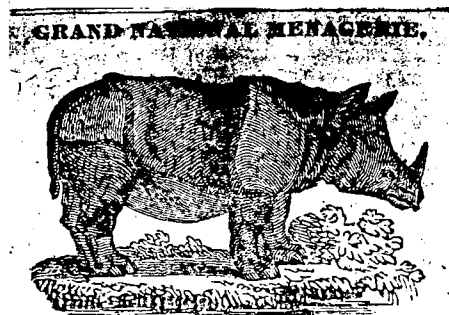
One of the early shows to exhibit a rhino was the Grand National Menagerie. This ad appeared in the Boston, Mass. TRAVELLER, newspaper dated January 27, 1832. Pfening Collection.

rarest large mammal in the world. Similar at first glance to the Great Indian rhino in that it possesses only one horn and has nearly the same arrangement for the folds in its skin, it is quite distinct. There are no "rivet heads" in the Javan's armor. Instead its skin has more of a mosaic-like or scaly appearance. The head of the Javan rhino is much smaller, narrower, and more pointed than the head of its more massive cousin, the Indian. Often, female Javan rhinos have no horn at all. As can be observed by comparing the illustrations of the two species, the Javan is much lighter in weight than the Indian, but stands almost as tall. It thus gives the appearance of a skinny animal compared to its big cousin. To me, the most easily recognized external difference in the Javan rhino is the arrangement of the skin folds on the neck and shoulder which creates a saddle-like effect. This is readily apparent in the accompanying illustrations. By contrast, the Indian rhino does not have this saddle on the back of its neck.

Photos of Javan rhinos are almost non-existent, and the two used here are the only really decent ones I have been able to find which show the physical characteristics described above. I have never seen a photograph of a living Javan rhino in captivity. The best I can do along these lines is the accompanying reproduction of a drawing from life by a Mr. J. Wolf of the male Javan rhino that lived in the London zoo from 1874 until 1885. This drawing was one of five made by Mr. Wolf in 1872 and 1874 of the different kinds of rhinos then living at the London zoo. All were done in beautiful water color and were lithographed to illustrate Mr. P. L. Sclater's excellent paper, "On the Rhinoceroses now or lately living in the Society's Menagerie," published in Transactions of The Zoological Society of London, Vol. IX—Part II (1877). They are so good for comparing the different species that I have taken the liberty of using all of them for illustrations here.

The only species of rhino not drawn by Mr. Wolf in 1874 was the African white rhino. And, there was good reason, for no example of this immense

No. 2 Female Great Indian Rhino in Berlin, Germany zoo around 1898. The well developed single horn gives rise to the name "unicorn." [Lothar Schlawe collection, Berlin, Germany, from Heck's, Lebende Bilder aus dem Reiche der Tiere (1899) p. 11.]



A LARGE and splendid Exhibition of WILD BEASTS in Union street, a few doors north of the First Baptist Meeting-House, will be opened for Exhibition TO-MORROW, and be continued open every day, Sundays excepted, till further notice.

Among this collection will be found the celebrated UNICORN or RHINOCEROS.

ELEPHANT ROMEO, imported by P. Dodge, Esq. in December last. This is now decidedly the largest Elephant in America.

ELEPHANT JULIET, or Miniature Elephant; the smallest of the species ever exhibited in this city.

A full grown male ZEBRA. The long acknowledged elegance of these animals is most strikingly exhibited in the present one.

Royal TIGER of Asia.

A pair of striped HYENAS; several LEOPARDS. Two humped or pleasure CAMELS; the JAGUAR.

Brown TIGERS, male and female.

A large Bengal TIGRESS.

Untamable or crying HYENAS.

PANTHERS; KANGAROO; MUCCO; COTAMONDIS, &c., &c., besides a whole wilderness of the Simia Tribe.

The SHETLAND PONEY will appear in the Ring, mounted by Capt. DICK, in full costume.

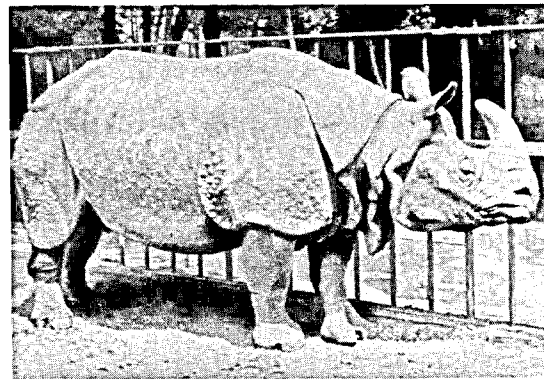
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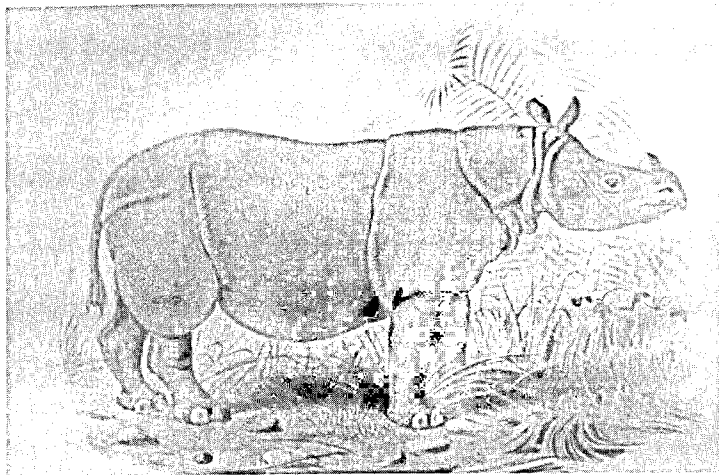
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beast was to take up residence in London for another 81 years or until 1955.

Returning to the subject of Javan rhinos, the only ones definitely known to have been shown in zoos after the aforesaid London example were at Calcutta, India (1887 to 1892) and Adelaide, Australia (1886 to 1907).

A Javan rhino may have landed in San Francisco in 1879, but this is not certain. The German zoo periodical Der Zoologische Garten for that year, at page 157, describes how a Javan rhino escaped from its cage on the ship "Colon" while enroute from New York to San Francisco. The rhino was supposedly destined for the "Montgomery menagerie." Now, there is no record of a San Francisco park, zoo, or permanent menagerie by that





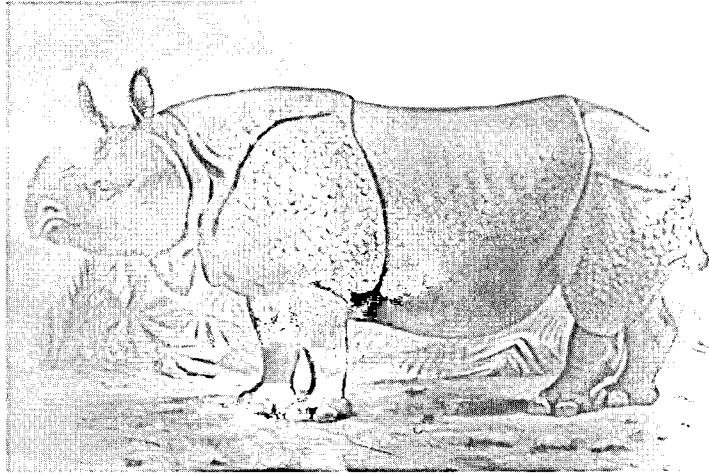
No. 4 Male Javan rhino that lived in London Zoo from 1874 until 1885. The skin does not have the rivet-like tubercles so characteristic of the Indian rhino. Rather, the Javan's epidermis has a cracked and scaly appearance. Note the saddle like skin fold on the back of the neck. [Drawing by J. Wolf in 1872 for the Zoological Society of London.]

name. This leads me to believe that the animal was headed for none other than Montgomery Queen, the circus proprietor who used Hayward, California in the San Francisco bay area, as a home base for his circus in the 1870s. However, it is my understanding that Queen's show left California for good in 1877, went east, and was sold at auction in Louisville, Kentucky. It seems that Queen then dropped out of sight for many years. Maybe he went back to San Francisco and opened a menagerie. Or perhaps the story in the 1879 *Der Zoologische Garten* referred to events of the earlier 1870s when the Montgomery Queen Circus was active. The point is worth further research because it might show what became of the only Javan rhino that ever came to America.

The likelihood that any of us will ever see this beast is indeed remote, for it appears to be so far over the brink of extinction that even the most stringent of conservation efforts will be unable to save the animal for long. Unfortunately, it seems that like such fabled creatures as the dodo, the Javan rhino will soon be gone forever. Its present wild population is said to number no more than 25 to 50 individuals, all of which are confined to the Ujung Kulon nature preserve located on a peninsula at the western tip of Java.

3. Sumatran rhino (two horns)

This rhino, the smallest and most curious looking of the family is also known by the names, Asiatic two horned rhino and hairy rhino. As can be seen from the accompanying illustrations, the animal is covered with



No. 3 Male Great Indian Rhino "Jim" that lived in the London Zoo from July 25, 1864 until his death on December 12, 1904, more than 40 years. Note "rivet heads" in armor on front and rear legs. The skin folds on the back of the Indian rhino's neck do not form the "saddle" so apparent in the closely related Javan rhino. [Drawing by J. Wolf in 1872 for the Zoological Society of London.]

coarse hair and has two horns, although they are not anything like as well developed as the nasal adornments for the two-horned African rhinos. The front horn on the zoo specimen shown in the large photograph has been worn down by rubbing. The subject of this photo is a female named "Subur" which presently resides in the zoo at Copenhagen, Denmark where this picture was taken in September 1965 by the noted zoo historian, Lothar Schlawe of Berlin, Germany. "Subur" is the only Sumatran rhino in captivity anywhere in the world. Further, she is one of only two of her species that have been exhibited in Europe or America during the past 48 years, the other one being exhibited at the Basel, Switzerland zoo. Both of these rhinos came to Europe in 1959. The Basel animal was never healthy and died in 1961.

No. 5 Freshly killed male Javan rhino. This animal was shot on January 31, 1934 at Sindangkerta, west Java by Mr. P. F. Franck for the Buitenzorg (now Bogor) Zoological Museum. Note the very prominent "saddle" fold on back of neck in front of shoulder. This is a sure way to distinguish the Javan from the Indian rhino. [Photo by P. F. Franck appearing in H. J. Sody's "Das Javanische Nashorn," *Zeitschrift für Säugetierkunde* (1959).]



As is apparent from these facts, the Sumatran rhino is exceedingly rare. It lives in the jungles of Burma, the Malayan peninsula, and the islands of Borneo and Sumatra. Once fairly numerous throughout this wide range, it has been hunted relentlessly until today its total wild population is said to number between 100 and 170 examples. The problem with trying to preserve the Sumatran rhino is that its remaining numbers are scattered throughout such a vast area that there is no breeding nucleus anywhere.

Oddly, the very first rhino bred and born in captivity was of this species. This blessed event took place in 1889 at the Alipore zoo, Calcutta, India.

The Sumatran rhino is the smallest of the clan. It stands only 4 to 4½ feet tall and weighs less than a ton. That is is a small animal is demonstrated by the fact that a female exhibited by the Forepaugh-Sells show in 1896 shared a 15-2/3 foot long den with an American deer [Bandwagon,

Jan.-Feb. 1964, p. 8]. This particular rhino was one of about 4 to 10 different Sumatrans that were exhibited by American circuses, beginning around 1872 and ending about 1906. The last one was an attraction with the old Ringling show in the early years of this century.

Not even our wealthy zoos have been able to obtain one since the Ringling example kicked the bucket around 1906. The Philadelphia zoo almost got a pair in 1952, but they died enroute to this country.

AFRICAN RHINOS

1. Black Rhino (two horns)

This is the most familiar and commonly exhibited rhino. The animal is also known as "African two-horned rhino" and "hook-lipped rhino." It is the rhino usually shown in movies and television programs with emphasis on the wild life of Africa.

The black rhino's natural habitat is the open bush country of eastern and south Africa where it is still fairly numerous as rhino populations go. The largest numbers are found in Kenya and Tanganyika (now Tanzania). In 1963, the Rhinoceros Group, a part of the Survival Service Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature estimated the entire wild population of black rhinos at 13,500 specimens.

In size the black rhino exceeds only the Sumatran. It is certainly smaller than the Great Indian and white and is apparently smaller than the Javan, although there is not much data as to size and weights of the latter. Adult male black rhinos average around 4½ to 5 feet in shoulder height and weigh up to 2,500 pounds. The

No. 6 Javan rhinos at a wallow in their native land. The species is now limited to about 25 to 50 animals, all of which are thought to be in the Ujung Kulon reserve located on a peninsula at the southwestern tip of Java. [A. Hoogerwerf: The World Wildlife Fund.]



truly spectacular feature of the black rhino is the great length of its two horns in proportion to its overall size. In wild examples, they sometimes grow to a length of four feet. In captivity, the horns tend to become worn down through rubbing against walls and bars of cages.

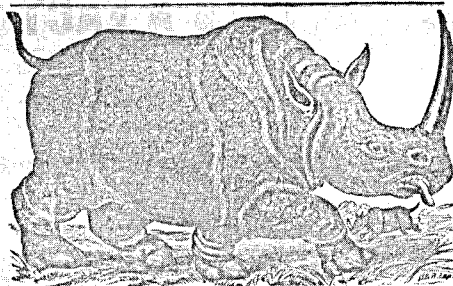
While far more numerous in the wild than its Asian relatives, the black rhino did not make its appearance in captivity until 1868. By that time the Indian rhino was familiar to both Americans and Europeans. No doubt this was due to the fact that commercial trade with the Orient was well established by the early 1800s while contact with East Africa was almost non-existent until the latter part of that century. Since then, the black rhino has become quite common. The first captive birth for the species took place in Chicago's Brookfield zoo in 1941. Subsequently, births have taken place at the Cincinnati, Denver, Detroit, Kansas City, Oklahoma City, Pittsburgh, and Washington, D.C. zoos and at a number of other places around the world.

The first American circus references to animals which might have been bona fide African black rhinos appear in 1868 and 1870. When the Van Amburgh show, under the management of Hyatt Frost, played Newburyport, Mass. on July 8, 1868 the advertisements claimed that "a new black rhino" had just been added to the menagerie. Two years later, we find John V. O'Brien claiming this beast in his menagerie. The Clipper for July 8, 1870 calls his animal an "African rhino" and ads for his stand at DuQuoin, Iowa on August 16, 1870 say "black rhino." That both Hyatt Frost and John O'Brien had rhinos during those years is not questioned, but on the strength of the available evidence, I am not prepared to agree that these animals were genuine African black rhinos. Let me show why.

It is well settled that the first

THIS IS EMPHATICALLY THE MOST COLLOSSAL EXHIBITION OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

Van Amburgh & Co's GREAT GOLDEN MENAGERIE.



Extraordinary Additional Attraction.

JUST ADDED A LIVING BLACK RHINOCEROS!

The Unicorn of Holy Writ, believed by most people to be of a species long extinct, and by others to be only an imagination or a myth, in the minds of many Biblical scholars finds its representative in the Rhinoceros, that most remarkable of all the pachyderms. It certainly is the only animal of modern times that bears a single horn, from which the term "Unicorn" is derived. Apart from its weird associations, for which many seriously contend, the Rhinoceros from its singular conformation and appearance, from its single horn, standing, unlike that of any other animal, from the extreme end of the snout, from its voluminous folds of skin, so thick that it is said even a musket ball cannot penetrate it, from its immense and uncquipped proportions, and from its total dissimilarity to any other animal under the sun, and beyond all from its extreme rarity in this country, renders it an object of more than ordinary interest to every one.

For a period of nearly twenty years, there has been no Rhinoceros brought to America. Consequently but very few of the present generation have ever had the opportunity of seeing one. The privilege of witnessing the first one imported to the United States for nearly a quarter of a century now presents itself.

It had long been the desire of Van Amburgh & Co. to add to their Menagerie, a Rhinoceros. And now, to the great pleasure and surprise of the American people, a living Rhinoceros, and for many years they have been steadily endeavoring to obtain one. But the difficulty and expense of its capture, together with the almost insurmountable difficulties of transportation, have prevented the realization of their desire until recently.

When a large black Rhinoceros arrived safely in New York, direct from Africa, the news of an arrival so extraordinary, soon found its way in the New York papers, and descriptive and congratulatory articles were published in almost every one in the city. The vast population of our American Metropolis were on the very tip-toe of excitement to see it, and a large amount of money would have flowed into the treasury of the Company had they consented to exhibit the Rhinoceros in New York, without any other attraction, and for the same reason the same is charged to witness the entire Menagerie. But a laudable desire to make it a common part of the manifold attractions they offer to the public, induced them to place it on exhibition.

The public will bear in mind that the only Rhinoceros that is now, or will be probably for many years, in America is with Van Amburgh & Co's Great Golden Menagerie, and that it will be exhibited in connection with that institution, the most complete and only legitimate Menagerie in the country, without extra charge.

The Van Amburgh & Co. devoted the entire front page of this herald to a "Black Asiatic Rhinoceros." The herald was used to advertise the Fostoria, Ohio date of October 13, 1870. Original in Pfening Collection.

African black rhino to reach Europe since the days of the Roman games was a young male imported by Carl Hagenbeck from Nubia (now Sudan) in 1868 and sold to the London zoo where it arrived on September 11, 1868. Had an earlier example come through the European animal market enroute to an American circus it would surely have created so much notoriety that the event would be recorded in European zoo journals, newspapers, etc. Of course, there is a possibility that an American circus got one directly from Africa before 1868, but I think this is unlikely. The real early references to rhinos in this country pretty clearly indicate that they were the "unicorn" from India. And, by



No. 7 Female Sumatran rhino "Subur" at Copenhagen zoo on September 29, 1965. She has worn down her front horn through rubbing.

bing. Note the hair covered body which leads to the name "hairy" rhino. [Photo by Lothar Schlawe, Berlin.]

RAYMOND & OGDEN'S *MENAGERIE,*



**COMPRISING THE MOST RARE AND GIGANTIC ASSEMBLAGE OF
Wild Beasts and Birds now travelling.**

Will be seen at Ebenezer Benedict's, in Belpre, on WEDNESDAY, the 15th inst. from 12 until 3 o'clock P. M.; at Marietta on THURSDAY, the 16th, from 12 until 3 P. M.; and at Waterford on FRIDAY, the 17th, from 1 until 4 P. M.

The proprietors, in soliciting public patronage, feel confident that the superiority of their collection, and style of exhibition, will insure an ample treat to all who may call on them; and they assure their visitors that every attention shall be paid, to render the exhibition orderly and instructive.

Among the most prominent of the Animals are the following:

UNICORN, or RHINOCEROS;

This animal has been the subject of much speculation among naturalists. It has been considered by theological commentators, the Unicorn of Holy Writ, as described in the book of Job. The character strictly corresponds with the description.

This wonderful animal surpasses the Elephant in bulk. The one now offered is but four years old, and weighs 4 or 5000 lbs.

the Civil War period the European market had become the most convenient place to get circus animals.

The term "black rhino" appears from time to time in circus ads and literature describing rhinos in the pre-1868 days, but I think this can largely be discounted as careless use of the term.

For Hyatt Frost to have obtained a genuine African black rhino for his Van Amburgh show in June 1868, would mean that he was ahead of the London zoo which did not obtain the recognized "first" from Carl Hagenbeck until September of that year. Then too, as we shall see, Mr. Frost later makes a more acceptable claim that 1872 was the year that the genuine article first came to America.

Turning briefly to John V. "Pogey" O'Brien, we must begin by recognizing his reputation as perhaps the most dishonest showman in American circus history. Hearing reports that a new animal called the "African black rhino" had created a sensation by its recent arrival in Europe, the crafty O'Brien would hardly resist the temptation to claim that his 1870 animal had an African origin if he thought such a line would cause one more click of the turnstiles. In short, the record must remain open to receive more evidence to support O'Brien's 1870 claim.

The year 1872 is a more authentic date for the arrival of America's first genuine African black "two horned" rhino. On June 6, 1872 the aforesaid Hyatt Frost of the Van Amburgh circus wrote a letter to one W. W. Thomas, a business associate, which reads as follows:

"Mr. Ferguson arrived from Europe two weeks since with a large and very valuable collection of animals and on last Saturday they arrived at St. Mary's Canada. Most of these animals were purchased of Wombwell collection in Edinburgh, Scotland, among which is a Black two horned Rhinoceros, the first ever in America and the second ever in Europe."

In my judgment, Mr. Frost's 1872 claim is entitled to great weight when viewed in the context of a candid communication to a business associate instead of a mere advertising tool.

That same season, 1872, we find P. T. Barnum also listing the African black rhino among the wonders of his menagerie. And, in the years that followed, this rhino established itself as the most commonly exhibited species. Of the fifteen rhinos that have been exhibited by American circuses

The Raymond & Ogden's Menagerie used this ad in Marietta (Ohio) Gazette, on October 11, 1834. Fred Pfening III. Collection

since 1900, no less than thirteen were of this type.

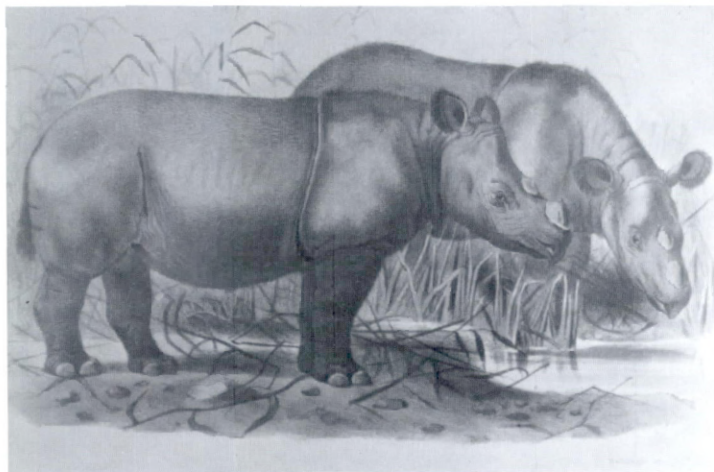
2. White Rhino (two horns)

Here is the largest of all the rhinos. Big males will stand over six feet at the shoulder and weigh three tons. The accompanying photos of "Gus" in the Hanover, Germany zoo give a good idea of the immense size of the beast.

The name "white" is misleading for it does not relate to color. Most authorities seem to think it arose from a corruption of the Dutch word "weit" which was used by the South African Boers to describe the "wide" or square mouth of the beast.

century this huge beast had been reduced to as low as 100 examples. Then, in the nick of time, a stringent conservation program was launched that has been one of the most successful in the world. The South African white rhinos have increased to a point where, believe it or not, the wild population is thought to be around 950 examples. The northern race of this rhino, because of its more inaccessible haunt, was spared the early slaughter that took place in South Africa, but its current situation is more precarious because conservation must be provided by the new African

decades ago. Writing about circus menageries in 1925, the late Col. C. G. Sturtevant composed a list of great rarities for a "dream" menagerie, which included a pair of white rhinos. He observed that no examples of this animal had ever been captured, let alone exhibited. Not only was this a correct statement for 1925, but the same could be said twenty years later. It was not until 1946 that a white rhino finally reached captivity. In July of that year a South African game warden found a day old female calf that had been abandoned by its mother. He cared for the little critter,



No. 9 Northern race of Sumatran rhino (Assam, Bengal, Burma) known as "hairy eared" rhino. This was once thought to be a separate species. Note the single skin fold

The color of a given rhino seems to depend largely on the color of the dirt or mud in which it last wallowed, so that the terms "white" or "black" rhino are not the best for distinguishing the animals. "Hook lipped" (for the black) and "square mouthed" (for the white) would be much better, but they are more cumbersome and will probably never replace the more popular names based on color. As can be seen from the accompanying photos, the white rhino differs from the black in having a square, bulbous mouth and in its massive low slung neck and head.

The range of the white rhino is very limited. It is found in small pockets within the Union of South Africa where it has long been a familiar animal to scientists. In 1900 a northern race was discovered in an area along the White Nile River in what is best described as the place where the boundaries of the Congo, Sudan, and Vganda came together.

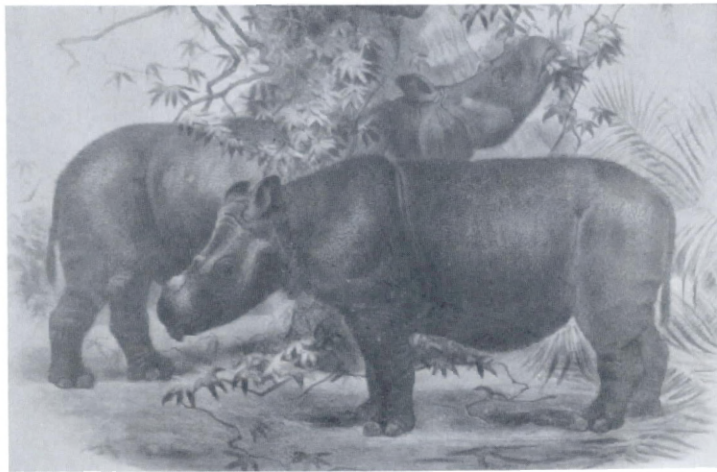
The white rhino is rather peaceful, grazing animal that became easy prey to indiscriminate hunting by the early South African settlers. The carnage was so great that by the turn of the

on the shoulder. Drawing by J. Wolf in 1872 from female "Begum" that lived at the London Zoo from February 14, 1872 until August 31, 1900.

nations who have larger problems than keeping poachers out of rhino country. On the whole, however, the status of the white rhino is most encouraging. Its total wild population, including both northern and southern races, is now thought to range between 2,000 to 3,000 examples.

The white rhino has become so plentiful within its limited South African range that in 1962 a cropping program was begun. A clever plan was devised. Instead of simply shooting the animals, they were captured and reintroduced to other places in South Africa from which they had vanished many decades previous. In order to offset the tremendous expense of such an operation, some of the animals were offered to zoos for a price of \$8,000 to \$10,000 per pair. In this manner many zoos around the world obtained prized exhibits, and the conservation program received needed funds. My records show that no less than thirteen pairs of these rhinos have come to America in the last six years.

What is now a commonly exhibited rhino was nothing but a zoo director's or circus owner's dream a mere two



No. 8 Sumatran rhinos drawn by Mr. Wolf in 1872 from a female that lived in the London zoo in August and September of that year. Note the two poorly developed horns.

and sent it to the Pretoria zoo where it became the first of its species in captivity. The first ones in Europe and America were of the northern race. Pairs arrived in Antwerp, Belgium in 1950 and London in 1955. In 1956 Dr. William Mann brought the first pair to our country for the Washington, D. C. zoo.

The only white rhino birth thus far in captivity took place on June 8, 1967 at the Pretoria, South Africa zoo. The youngster's mother had not been in the zoo for the normal gestation period so it is thought that she was bred in the wild.

Alas, no white rhino has even traveled with an American circus. Only the Swiss Circus Knie can lay claim to this great attraction. It obtained a pair in 1966. The male "Bully" stays in Knie's children's zoo at Rapperswil, but the female "Ceyla" travels with the show and has become a star performer.

The chronicle of circus rhinos in America begins in the year 1826. According to the eminent historian, R. W. G. Vail, a "unicorn or one horned rhinoceros" was exhibited at Peale's Museum in New York City on Oc-

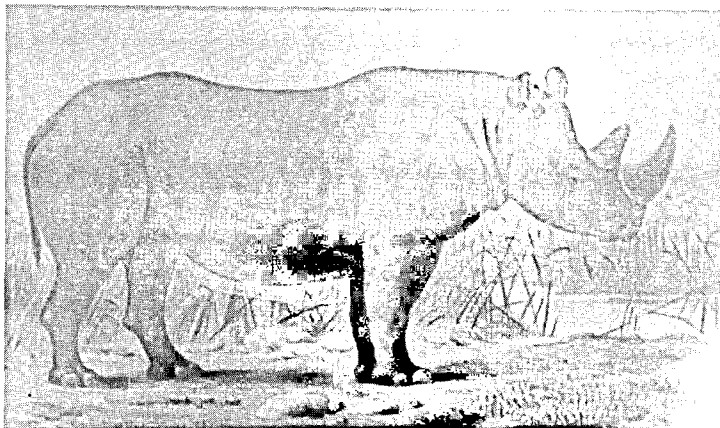
tober 16, 1826. Vail says this is the earliest reference to a rhinoceros in America, and the words describing its horn suggest it was from India. The same or another animal was exhibited at 350 Broadway, New York City, during June and July of 1829.

On May 9, 1830 another Indian rhino arrived in our country. This animal, a male, was exhibited at the Washington Gardens, Tremont Street, Boston, Mass. on May 14, 1830. He was next a prime attraction for an association of early showmen popularly known as the Flatfoots because of their reputation in "putting their foot down flat" on their competition. They used the name Zoological Institute and had permanent exhibition quarters at 37 Bowery in New York City. During the summer they operated traveling menageries employing numerous colorful titles. We find our rhino the subject of a colorful poster depicting the wonders of the American National Caravan in 1831. There is a good drawing of an Indian rhino with the following description, to-wit:

"The one now offered for inspection is the first living rhinoceros ever brought to America. He is in excellent condition, possesses surprising strength, and is docile and obedient to his keeper. He was taken at the foot of one of the Himalayan Mountains, near a branch of the Ganges when he was judged to be about three months old, sent to a Rajah or native Prince of Calcutta, from whom it was purchased in January, 1830 and landed in Boston on the 9th of May following."

Of course, the boast that this was the "first" rhino in America is inconsistent with the fact, noted above, that rhinos were exhibited in New York in

No. 10 The first African black rhino in Europe since the days of the Roman Empire. This is Mr. Wolf's drawing of the male acquired by the London Zoo in 1868 from the famed German dealer Carl Hagenbeck.



1826 and again in 1829. As we shall see, our American showmen have never been bashful in assigning such plaudits as "first," "only one on exhibit," "biggest," etc. to their rhinos. Be that as it may, the 1830 Indian rhino was still going strong in 1834-35 because he is pictured and discussed on lithographs utilized that season by "The Association's Celebrated and Extensive Menagerie and Aviary from their Zoological Institute in the City of New York, embracing all the subjects of natural history, as exhibited at that popular and fashionable resort during the winter of 1834-5." Our rhino is described as follows:

"The unicorn, or rhinoceros, mentioned in Scripture . . . now offered for exhibition is seven years old, and is the first ever brought to America . . . Its present weight is about 4,200 pounds. The growth of its horn is much retarded as it continually thumps its head against the bars of its cage."

In addition to the two possibly distinct animals mentioned above, there is evidence that perhaps four more found their way to this country before 1840.

In 1830 a certain Doctor Burrow of Philadelphia is said to have imported a male through that city. An account of this beast appears in an ad for the Association's Menagerie and Aviary in the August 11, 1835 issue of the Pittsburgh, Pa. Allegheny Democrat, to-wit:

"The UNICORN or ONE HORNED RHINOCEROS . . . now offered for inspection is a male, 8 years old, and was taken in the interior of Asia, on the Burrampooter [sic] River, by Dorothy Burrow, of Philadelphia, and imported to that city, at a very enormous expense, in 1830, and is now the largest in America, weighing upwards of 5,000 pounds."

Note the similarity between this story and that about the animal said to have arrived in Boston the same

year. Were there two rhinos imported in 1830 or only one? I think there were two "Flatfoot" rhinos during the years 1830-1835. Let me make out my case.

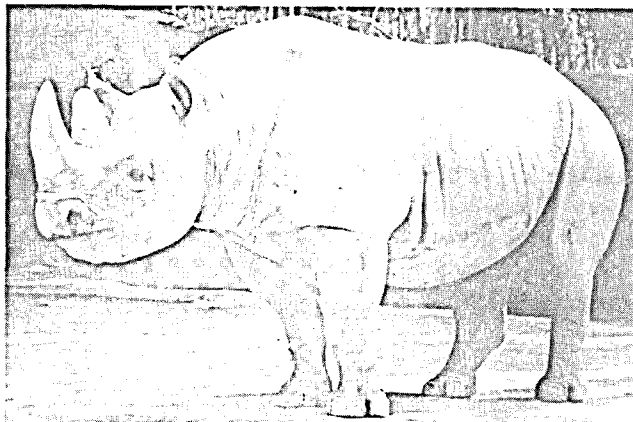
The Entire New Menagerie, operated by the Flatfoots Macomber and Welch claimed a rhino at Boston on June 1, 1835 while just two months and many hundreds of miles to the west, Dr. Burrow's example was touring Ohio and Pennsylvania with the Association's [Flatfoot's] Menagerie and Aviary. I rest my case by suggesting that in 1835 there were two Flatfoot units, each with a rhino.

An 1837 pamphlet about Purdy, Welch, and Macomber's collection from the Zoological Institute lists a rhino weighing 5,628 pounds. Undoubtedly this was one of the 1830 animals. On August 22-23, 1837 there was an auction of animals belonging to the Zoological Institute among which was a female rhinoceros. This is the first mention of the fairer sex among the rhinos, and suggests a fourth specimen in our country during the 1826-1837 period.

From fellow historian Rick Pfening comes the earliest reference to the death of a rhino in America. This unfortunate event occurred with J. R. and William Howes' New York Menagerie in 1834. There is no information as to which of the previously discussed rhinos this might have been. Nay, it might have been a different rhino altogether.

The pioneer showman James Raymond operated outside the sphere of the Flatfoot-Zoological Institute organization, and in competition therewith. Hence, a four year old rhino claimed by his Raymond & Ogden show at Marietta, Ohio in 1834 and at Piqua, Ohio in 1836 would likely have been still another "unicorn" imported during that decade. And, if I correctly count the rhinos discussed above, this

No. 11 Female African black rhino "Sally" at San Diego, California zoo on October 10, 1964. Note the hooked, upper lip of the mouth. [Photo by Chang Reynolds.]



Raymond beast might have been the sixth to reach our shores by the end of the 1830s.

My research indicates a hiatus in rhino exhibition for most of the 1840s. The story resumes in 1848. At New London, Conn., on October 9th, of that year, the Raymond & Waring show claimed to have an Asiatic rhino that was the second ever brought to America and only the 3rd or 4th ever brought out of Asia. Obviously, these claims must be discounted except to the extent that they might be valid evidence of the second rhino exhibited by a James Raymond show.

Raymond and his partner, Noell Waring, ran two units in the late 1840s and early 1850s using a variety of titles, some combining their own names with those of two famous wild animal trainers of that era, Jacob Driesbach and Isaac A. Van Amburgh. The latter became the most famous, and although he died in 1865, the Van Amburgh title was used by various showmen until the early 1900s.

It appears that at least two rhinos were shown under the Raymond and Waring banner. The first is the one that turns up in Connecticut in 1848, as aforesaid, and is mentioned in a number of ads in 1849 and 1850 as the "Rhinoceros or Unicorn of Holy Writ", and as the "only rhinoceros in America". Evidence of the second one begins in 1851. In April of that year Raymond had a mid-western unit in Ohio that carried his and Van Amburgh's names in the title, while in June he was touring Massachusetts with another unit called the Raymond & Driesbach Menagerie. Both of these units claimed rhinos.

Ads for the Raymond and Van Amburgh unit in Ohio in 1852 and 1853 confirm the presence of a rhino. My last reference to a rhino that might be this same animal turns up in 1854 with a river boat show. On September 5th of that year a rhino was advertised at Hannibal, Mo. with Van Amburgh's menagerie on the "Floating Palace" barge towed by the steamer "James Raymond".

The other Raymond rhino appears to have been exhibited by his eastern unit from 1851 until early 1854. This outfit often used Jacob Driesbach's name. Hence, it would seem safe to assume that the one claimed by Driesbach, Rivers, and Derious' Menagerie and Circus at Middletown, Connecticut on October 21, 1853 was probably our eastern unit rhino. John Kunzog of Jamestown, N.Y. has found in Gleason's Pictorial what logically appears to be this rhino's obituary. In the issue for April 4, 1854 we read that a large rhino died in Herr Driesbach's Menagerie in New York on March 13th



No. 12 Pair of African white rhinos at Antwerp, Belgium zoo on September 13, 1964. Note the massive heads of these animals with their square mouths or lips. [Photo by Lothar Schlawe, Berlin.]

previous. So ends the story of the Raymond & Waring rhinos.

During the 1850s more of our subject pachderms came to these shores. In 1851 G. C. Quick & Co.'s Menagerie advertised a rhino at Harrisburg, Pa. and, undoubtedly, the same animal was

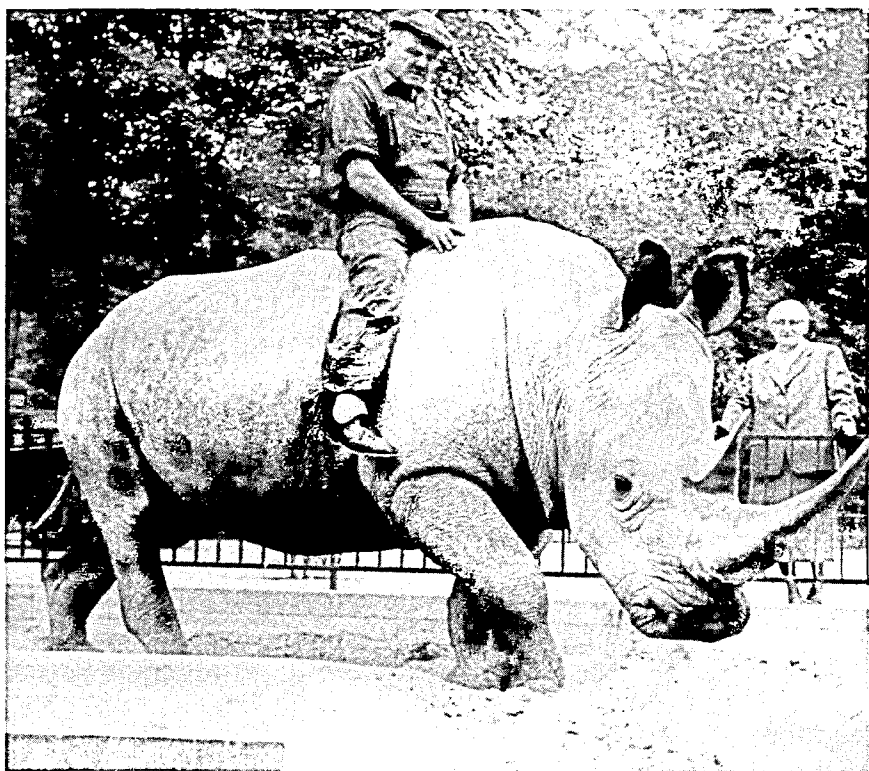


No. 13 Huge male white rhino "Gus" at Hanover, Germany zoo. The large square mouth of the species is well shown by this photo.

the one claimed by Sands & Quick at Dedham, Mass. the next season. In the south, Robinson & Eldred's Great Combined Circus & Menagerie listed a "rhinoceros" among the animals to be seen at Macon, Georgia on February 11-12, 1853.

Next, I find my first reference to a P. T. Barnum "unicorn". A herald for the famous showman's New York Museum in the summer of 1854 makes a big deal of the assertion that "... here, in addition, is the ONLY LIVING RHINOCEROS in America." This beast either died shortly thereafter or else rhinos were hard for Barnum to turn down because, according to *Bal-lou's Weekly*, he bought another for \$575.00 at an auction of Seth B. Howe's menagerie in November, 1855. This animal had been on tour earlier that season in Pennsylvania with Howe's, Myer's, & Madigan's. Just how long it had been a circus animal is unknown, but some educated speculation at this point might shed some light.

Barnum and Seth Howe had just concluded a successful four years (1851-1854) as operators of P. T. Barnum's Asiatic Caravan, Museum, and Menagerie. After this Barnum retired for a spell from the traveling circus business, but Howe went out in 1855 with Myer and Madigan. Who knows, perhaps the rhino had been a trouper with the earlier Asiatic Caravan, following which Barnum sold or loaned his interest in the beast to Howe, only to repurchase same at the auction? Auctions of circus property were not always arm's length transactions. Frequently, the bidder was in cahoots with the showman whose property was being sold in order to help the latter squeeze out an unwanted partner or to outmaneuver creditors trying to attach the show property. The \$575.00 paid by Barnum at the Howe auction was a very low price for a rhino, and I'll bet some creditor took a beating while Barnum, Howe, or both came out relatively intact.



No. 14 White rhino "Gus" giving his keeper a ride at Hanover zoo. "Gus" was captured around 1949 by Carr Hartley, who

kept the big rhino as a pet at his farm in Kenya until 1963, when the brute was sent to Hanover.

To conclude the first installment of this chronicle we come to the most famous American circus rhino. I refer to Dan Rice's male Great Indian rhino "Old Put" who was unique in two respects: (1) he appears to have been the first rhino since the days of the Ancient Romans to have performed in the circus arena; and (2) he may well have been the first living rhino in the world to be photographed. Leonard V. Farley, as curator of the Hertzberg Circus collection of the San Antonio, Texas Public Library, provided the photograph which is the leading illustration used here. According to Mr. Farley, this photo came to the Hertzberg collection from lineal descendants of the great jester, Dan Rice; and as will be apparent from the facts set forth below, if the picture actually shows the original Dan Rice trained rhino, it had to be taken before August 1861.¹

For the details of "Old Put's" career we are indebted to fellow historian John Kunzog who wrote and published the wonderful Dan Rice biography, *The One Horse Show . . .* (1962).

¹As will be discussed in a further installment, John V. O'Brien operated a show in 1874 which claimed a trained rhino. And, Dan Rice had been employed by O'Brien during the 1873 season. Therefore, it is conceivable that the subject photo shows the circa 1874 animal and not Rice's original "Old Put." However, until there is more definite proof of this, I prefer to identify the photo as showing the original Dan Rice rhino.

From that book, as well as through correspondence with its author, came the facts. "Old Put" was acquired by the Flatfoot organization in the early 1850s. He turned out to be a vicious critter, killed one keeper, and injured others. As a consequence, by 1854 he had been retired to the Flatfoot farm in Putnam County, New York from whence came his name "Put."²

The sale of "Old Put" to Dan Rice was negotiated in early 1855 by Avery Smith, one of the members of the Flatfoot organization.³ Rice bought

²John Kunzog's biography *The One Horse Show . . .* (p. 115) says "Old Put" was a black rhino but the photo clearly shows a one-horned Great Indian rhino. I discussed this matter with Mr. Kunzog, and he said the identification of "Old Put" as a black rhino came from circus advertising material of the time (1850s-1860s). Mr. Kunzog had not seen this or any other picture of "Old Put" when the biography was written. Hence, he had to rely on the circus publicity materials and, to use Mr. Kunzog's words, "the publicity agent probably used the word black because of the animal's dark color or because of the public appeal of that word".

³There are references which indicate that the Howes Brothers, Nathan and Seth B. had an interest in "Old Put" before he was sold to Dan Rice. This is somewhat confusing. While originally members of the association of showmen known as the "Flatfoots", it is the writer's impression that by the 1850s, the Howes had left the Flatfoots and were actually competitors (Seth Howes was probably the most successful of all these early showmen). Of course, there was such a confusion of sales, trades, mergers, and leases between these showmen that the entire picture is clouded. Be this as it may, Mr. Kunzog assures the writer that before his sale to Rice, "Old Put" had been retired to the Flatfoot farm in Putnam County, N.Y. and was definitely sold to Rice by the Flatfoot, Avery Smith.

the animal for \$700.00 and paid for its transportation from Putnam County, New York to his own farm and winter quarters at Girard, Pennsylvania, a small town approximately fifteen miles west of Erie. The arrival of a rhinoceros in this small Pennsylvania town must have caused a sensation for the land on which "Old Put" was quartered is, according to John Kunzog, still known as Rhinoceros Hollow.

The indomitable Rice lost no time in making "Old Put" the star of his circus. By placing thimbles on his fingers and using a series of clicks to which the rhino became conditioned, Rice was able to train his rhino. Mr. Kunzog's biography of Rice gives the following account of "Old Put's" routine in the circus arena:

"Rice made his entrance, followed at a distance of ten feet by the rhinoceros, heavily shackled and led by an attendant. The chains were removed as the animal entered the ring. A pair of platform stairs, three steps in height, were placed in the ring which "Old Put" would ascend and standing at the top would let out a deafening bell when Rice asked: 'Did I train you to obey my commands?' While the animal stood on the platform Rice lighted some red fire inside a small paper house. 'Fire,' he yelled, 'ring the bell.' At which command the animal clambered down from the steps, ran to a rod on which hung a swinging bell and would toll it with his horn. This alarm brought out the clown fire department riding in a pig drawn cart. This scene was followed by Dan Rice walking around the ring, followed at a short distance by the rhinoceros. Divesting himself of his coat, a large handkerchief was observed to protrude from his hip pocket. The animal increased its pace, seized the kerchief in its mouth, when attendants placed an inverted wooden tub between Rice and the animal. Turning around, Rice placed one foot on the tub, and looking at the rhinoceros now standing on the other side, he would say: 'Put, you old scamp; you have stolen my kerchief. Return it, I say.' But, the animal merely stood there looking at Rice, sometimes emulating its preceptor by also placing a foot on the tub. Dan repeated the request for the kerchief several times to no avail, and then, standing erect, he clicked his heels together, gave a small military salute and said: 'General Putnam, sir;

I have come for the return of the kerchief.'

Upon being so addressed the rhinoceros opened its mouth and the kerchief fell upon the tub and the two performers bowed to the plaudits of the spectators. On leaving the ring, shackles were again placed on the animal, which was then led out of the tent." (One Horse Show, pp. 116-117)

The unpredictable and irascible temperament of the Indian rhino, together with its well known proclivity to run amuk like a juggernaut, must have made its appearance without shackles in an open and unprotected circus ring a risky business for both trainer and patrons.

John Kunzog's biography describes an attack by "Old Put" on Rice during an afternoon performance at Buffalo, New York on August 7, 1857, to-wit:

"In a snort of anger the animal threw Rice fifteen feet into the air and as he landed, a screaming audience was on the verge of panic while the unfettered beast roared defiance and trod about the ring. The showman leaped to his feet, whipped a large kerchief from his pocket, and rushing up to the snorting animal he dropped it over its eyes. With vision obscured, the rhinoceros became docile as a lamb and Rice signaled an attendant. Shackles were placed on the brute, which was then meekly led from the ring. With animal under control, the excitement in the seats subsided and Rice exited to ascertain extent of his hurts, while other performers appeared in the ring to avoid a break in the program. Fifteen minutes later Rice returned, bowed, and announced no broken bones or serious injuries, receiving a hearty applause at this. The rhinoceros again was brought to the ring and this time went through its routine without any display of temper." (One Horse Show, p. 132)

"Old Put" was certainly the greatest wild animal attraction of the time; but it all came to an end in the Mississippi River on August 18, 1861, while the Dan Rice circus was being moved by boat up the mighty river. At a point between Prairie duChien and LaCrosse, Wisconsin, the barge transporting "Old Put" was struck by the steamboat "Key City" and the rhino cage was knocked into the river. Chained inside his cage by the ring in his nose, "Old Put" had no chance to escape. Several days later the cage containing the dead rhino was retrieved. Dan Rice had lost his famous

POSITIVELY FOR THREE DAYS ONLY. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the 29th and 30th April, and the 1st day of May.

The keeper Mr. VONAMBERG, will enter 4 cages, at 4 o'clock P. M., and at 8 1-2 o'clock in the evening, viz: With a Lion, Lioness, and Royal Bengal Tiger, (all 3 in one cage.) With a pair of African Leopards. With a pair of Spotted Hyenas, and a pair of Royal Bengal Tigers. The animals will be fed in presence of the audience at 1-2 past 4 o'clock P. M., and at 1-2 past 8 o'clock in the evening.

June, Titus, Angevine & Co. Agreeable to appointment set forth in this advertisement, will exhibit the living specimens of NATURAL HISTORY,

In ALBANY, on the corner of Hudson and Hallenbake-sts., in rear of the Theatre. HOURS OF EXHIBITION on Tuesday, 29th April, from 1 to 5 P. M. and from 7 to 9 in the evening. On Wednesday, 30th April, from 10 A. M. to 1 P. M., from 2 to 5 P. M., and from 7 to 9 in the evening. And on Thursday, May 1st, from 10 A. M. to 1 P. M. and from 2 to 5 in the afternoon.

TICKETS OF ADMISSION 25 CENTS.

CHILDREN UNDER 10 YEARS OF AGE HALF-PRICE.



The UNICORN, or one horned Rhino was featured in this herald for the June, Titus, Angevine & Co. distributed for a date at the end of April 1834, in Albany, N.Y. Original in Pfening Collection.

rhino; and disconsolate, he sued the owners of the steamboat "Key City" for the loss of "Old Put."

However, the story does not end here. That season Rice had employed as publicity agent a certain Col. William C. Preston who, immediately upon "Old Put's" death, saw an opportunity to gain much publicity for the circus. Without regard for the truth, Col. Preston fabricated a story that "Old Put" has escaped from his cage, gotten out of the river, and proceeded to ravage the farms and terrorize the people near LaCrosse, Wisconsin. This completely false story then told how the rhino was finally captured and reunited in the circus arena with Dan Rice. The unscrupulous Col. Preston succeeded in persuading a number of newspapers along the Mississippi River to print this hoax, one of which was the LaCrosse Tri Weekly Democrat.⁴

The simple truth is that America's first performing rhino went to a watery grave on August 18, 1861.

My research indicates that after "Put's" death, rhinos were absent from the circus scene until 1868.⁵ Then we come to a twelve year period (1868-1880) that saw American circuses exhibit nearly one-half of all the rhinos that have ever tramped under canvas in this country. However, the story of those animals must wait for the next episode of this chronicle.

⁴The unfortunate part is that Col. Preston's hoax has been innocently but widely circulated. It appeared in the 1946 Christmas issue of "White Tops", the journal of the Circus Fans Association. I read this erroneous account of the incident and innocently published the error in my paper, "Asian Rhinos In Captivity", International Zoo Yearbook, Vol. 11, 1960, London: The Zoological Society of London, p. 26.

⁵Chappie Fox wrote me in 1959 that a rhino was figured in 1865 ads for Maginley & Co's. Royal Circus & British Museum & Menagerie. However, Sturtevant's list of American circuses (White Tops, May-June & July-Aug. 1963) does not reveal a Maginley title in 1865. And, a thorough review of the 1865 Clippers by Rick Pfening failed to turn up a show with that name in 1865. Hence it seems likely that Mr. Fox's reference should be dated in 1867 to 1874 when the Maginley title was in use.

Season's Greetings

to

Circus Performers And
Circus Fans Everywhere

Grace Weckwerth

C.F.A. P.E.T.A. C.H.S.

C.C.A. and C.F. Great Britain



Cheerful Gardner and 27 elephants on the Hagenbeck-Wallace lot in New York with Yankee Stadium in the background in 1933.

THE KELTY PHOTOS

During the period from 1920 to 1940 two professional photographers did much to record the circuses of that time. Harry Atwell, of Chicago, Illinois, specialized in performers and general lot scenes that were used by the shows in publicity material.

Edward J. Kelty, of New York City, was the "group photo" man. Starting in the middle 1920s Kelty appeared on circus lots with his 12 x 20 inch camera and proceeded to photograph various groups of show people, from departments to the full show personal. Often three or four parade wagons would be lined up and the show folks would pose in front of them.

Ed Kelty also used an 8 x 10 camera for photos of individuals. Each year end he would publish a list of the photos he had taken and advertise them in the Billboard. His 1933 list included Allen Bros. Wild West, Spec group; All's Wild West & Beverly Bros. Circus, Spec group; Sam B. Dill Circus 2 views; Downie Bros. 3 views; Hagenbeck-Wallace 6 views; Hunt's Circus 3 views; George W. Johnson's Fraternal Circus, 1 view; Kay Bros. Spec group; Lewis Bros. 2 views; Ringling Barnum, 21 views; and Wheeler & Almond Circus 2 views. These were all 12 x 20s and were \$1.15 each, six for \$6.00 or 12 for \$10.00. In other years he often had a much wider selection.

Kelty was quite an "elbow bender" and

from time to time would drop out of circulation. He had one special bar he frequented in New York and when his bill grew to astronomical size, he hocked his negatives with the owner as security on his past due account. During World War II all of the 8 x 10 negs were turned into scrap for the war effort and were lost for all time. But the 12 x 20s remained. He used the company name "Century Flashlight Photographers Inc." during his prime, taking it from the use of the flash powder group photos he took of hotel banquets in New York. Many of his negatives later found their way to another banquet photographer in Brooklyn, New York.

It was at this Brooklyn firm that the Bandwagon Editor located the negs in 1955 and had a number of prints made. Other publications also "found" the negs and the demand drove the price up quickly.

About this same time another individual located these negs as well as many that remained at the bar. This collector now owns most of the existing Kelty negatives, as well as the prints on hand with the negs.

Not long ago a photo taken by the late Eddie Jackson was located showing Ed Kelty taking a photo of a group of clowns on the Ringling Barnum show in 1938. This Jackson photo suggested this spread of Kelty views. All of these photos are from the collections of Fred D. Pfening, Jr. and Harold Dunn.



The Marcella's Golden Models, statue act posed on a Ringling Barnum lot in 1934.

Midway and lot scene of Ringling Barnum taken in Jersey City, N. J. on May 21, 1929.





The Christy Bros. Circus lot in Torrington, Conn., August 23, 1929.

The entire performing personal of Sells-Floto in 1929 with Tom Mix seated in top row center.



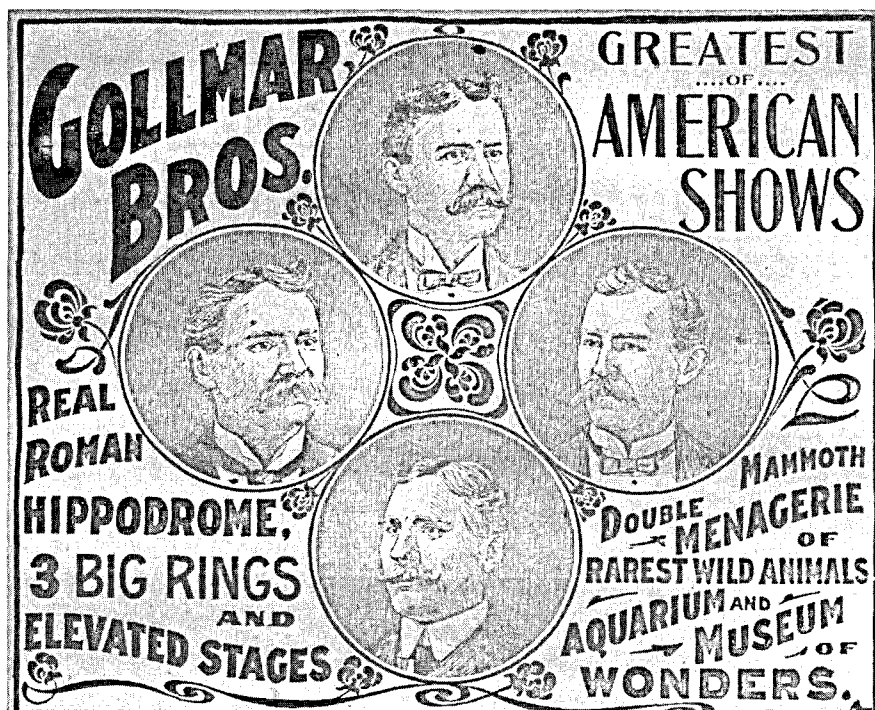
Dorothy Herbert on a Ringling Barnum lot in the middle 1930s.



The Two Jesters steam calliope on Hagenbeck-Wallace in 1932 on a Brooklyn, N. Y. lot.

The Curtis stake driver on the Sells-Floto Circus around 1930.





DAY BY DAY WITH

by **ADRIAN D. SHARPE**
Cailliope Player & Ticket Agent

GOLLMARS 1905

In the summer of 1904, Gollmar Brothers came to Brookings, South Dakota. I talked to Charles Gollmar about a job for next Season. He said to write to him in the Fall. I complied with his instruction and he offered me a job on the Calliope and tickets at \$8.00 per week. The pay was not what I had expected but I signed the contract. The next Spring I arrived in Baraboo, Wisconsin a week in advance so that I could become accustomed to the Calliope. We opened in Baraboo, Saturday the 29th of April then moved to Beloit, Wisconsin for Sunday and Monday. I had never met Fred Gollmar as he was the Man on Advance and had been away ahead of the show during the time I was in Baraboo. We made the parade down town Saturday morning. Ed Jameson, the Cook House Steward, was doing the firing for me that morning. As we were returning to the lot on a back street, a man on the side walk walking along beside the Calliope, called over and said, "Give us another tune." After he had called a couple of times, there being no one else on the street to hear, I finally said to Ed Jameson, "Who is that bird over there wanting another tune?" He said, "Fellow don't you know who you are working for?" That man is

Fred Gollmar one of the Brothers. I immediately obliged the gentleman with another tune.

I was a man fresh from the farm. We were making a run to Beloit and being the first time they had loaded that Season it took quite a bit longer. We did not get away until very late. The people in the sleeper were all up. At about ten o'clock in the morning we had not yet arrived in Beloit. I was accustomed to breakfast in the morning on the farm. Not being familiar with circus life, I was wondering if we would get anything to eat before we got into town. One of the Band Boys put a towel around his arm and came through the coach calling, "LAST CALL FOR BREAKFAST—DINING CAR IN THE REAR." He wanted to see how many new suckers there were in the car. Although I was hungry and a new guy I was not sucker enough to follow him back to the caboose for breakfast. Many changes come over the Circus Boys as the years pass. I found this to be true with one of the bandboys that was a good friend of mine during the circus days. About twenty five or thirty years later, I saw something in the Billboard about a Percy Carper in some town in Ohio or one of the Eastern States. I wrote him a letter and

to my surprise it was Percy Carper who was in the Gollmar Band in 1905. He was then County Sheriff in the town where he lived. While writing a friendly letter he told me all about their new jail and how nicely they could take care of their guests. A man's work sure changes lives. A jail is something I have never used but Percy was certainly elated over their new structure. We had nice weather in Beloit, Wisconsin and then moved over to Aurora, Illinois for the balance of the week.

We moved to LaFayette, Indiana for Saturday, May 6th. It was a nice town. When we made the parade we went around the Court House Square which was packed with people who had come to see the parade. Such a sight took my eye. We moved to Elwood, Indiana for Sunday and Monday. On the run into Elwood, Sunday morning about six o'clock we had a wreck. We were running through the little town of Kempton. When the wreck occurred some one in the car yelled we have had a wreck. I rushed out. I was running along the tracks with another fellow. We saw a 4x4—8 ft. long—had fallen off a horse car wedged in the switch between the rails and we pulled it out. It was a two man job to pry it lose for the cars rolling over it had driven it in tight. It caught the elephant car first behind the horse cars and the next three flat cars. There is always something funny about a wreck. The first flat car carried the pole wagon, which you can see in the enclosed picture. The first flat car behind the elephant car went cross ways across a big ditch. The elephant car turned upside down on the first flat car, breaking the flat in two. There were several men who had apartments in the end of the elephant car. They were the elephant handlers. All there was in the way of a door to get out was a very small, square window. When the car was upside down the window was near the bottom. It did not seem large enough for a man to get through. Nevertheless, all the men went through that hole. We had a man handling Palm. Emery Styles was in there and he went through. Then the fellow they called "Elephant Fatty" looked almost twice as large as that hole but he went through. He was asked how he ever made it. He said, "All the light I could see was that hole and I just made a dive and went through." The say is, "Where there's a Will there's a Way." When they got the door open to the elephant car all three bulls, camels and horses were at that door. All walked out and seemed to be none the worse for the wreck. All are pictured down along the fence.

As for the people no one was killed or hurt badly but just shaken up. The

Canvas Wagon was on one of the flats that was wrecked. The Canvas Wagon had no top on it. There were some fellows sleeping in it on the canvas. One was a fellow bumming his ride. They all got quite a jolt and some were knocked out. The fellow getting a free ride was knocked out and carried into a near by farm house and laid on a bed. When he came too he was asked where he worked. He said he was looking for a job and wanted to see the boss in the morning but after he got on his feet he left and was never seen again. We were held up there most of the day and all we had to eat was some coffee made in a drum along the track. I burnt my mouth to start with and that took care of my eating. The fun came when they were loading to leave. They brought on some company flats and got the wagons loaded on them. Then they brought out a big company box car for the elephants. They loaded all the other animals that belonged there. When they tried to load the bulls the little elephant did not seem to mind and walked right in. Then came Palm. It took her a little while to make up her mind to go in that new car but Old Butch came up, she stopped, put her head in, looked around and backed out.

One wreck was enough for her in one day. The other bulls followed her out. While every one was tired that old bull refused to enter. I don't know how many trips Emery Styles and his men made with the bulls. The little elephant would go right in—then Palm after looking around would go in and then Old Butch would put her head in, look around and they all came out again. She finally went in looked around and went out again but the next time she was satisfied and stayed. It was late in the afternoon before we left for Elwood. Well that is circus life. The following week was spent with some rain and bad lots. During the week at Portland, Indiana, Thursday the 11th it rained all day with the lot under water and a long way out of town and no night show. The next two days the weather was a little better. The following Sunday and Monday we played Marion, Ohio with nice weather. Sunday was my first pay day. Not enough to make a fellow rich but it was good to have something. They took out 25c for the porter as they wanted every man's shoes blacked ever night and that was the way they paid for it. My pay was \$7.75.

They had parked the sleepers on a stub switch near Main Street for the convenience of the circus people over Sunday but as we changed roads the sleepers were moved and when I went down to the car on Monday night my car was gone from where it had been



The Gollmar show suffered a train wreck at Kempton, Indiana, on Sunday May 7, 1905 on the way into Elwood, Indiana. Show personnel waiting for rail equipment to be cleared. Author's Collection.

over Sunday. Being a green horn at circus life I started down the track to find my car. Before long I began to figure I was lost in the dark and wandered around over railroad tracks for some time. I saw a Passenger Train pull into a station not far distant. I made my way over there and seeing a fellow I said, "Do you know where the circus is loading?" He said it is too late to see anything now they are about loaded but they are right down this track and will pull out when the Passenger Train goes by. He said he just came from there. Well, I went right out ahead of that train and believe me I sure ran and the train came up behind me. The head light lit up the track so I could see where to run. I was near the circus train before the Passenger Train passed me so I made the train. The circus folk waiting by the cars had a laugh to see me come ahead of the engine. Well, a fellow will learn and that was the last time I ever got left fooling around too long before starting to the train at night.

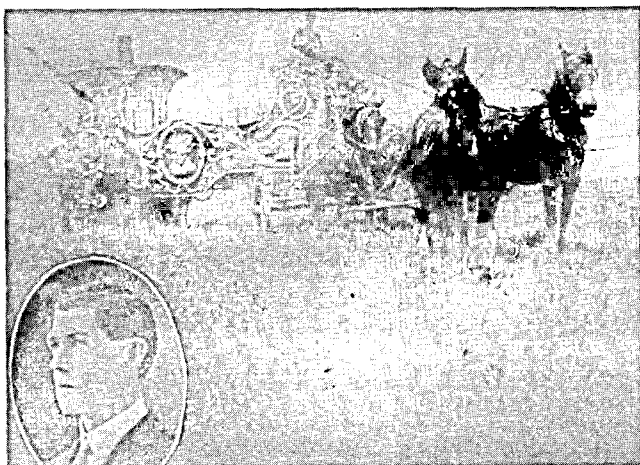
The following week the weather was very good. We were in Springfield, Ohio for Saturday May 20. We had big crowds that day with the Fore-

paugh and Sells Brothers Shows in ahead of us. When I mentioned to some one about the big business they said remember Gollmar Brothers are playing for 25c today. We had a 165 mile run from Springfield, Ohio to Adrian, Michigan for Sunday. The middle of the forenoon I was sitting on the top of one of the wagons with some of the other boys. A brakeman was sitting on the flat with his feet hanging over the side. We boys, riding on the top, could see some of the wagons on a car up ahead rise and lower as the train ran. I told the boys there is something wrong up there. They did not think so but we called the brakeman to come and look. He immediately cut the air and brought the car to a stop. The rods had gone out from under one of the flats and the speed was all that was holding it up. The car at once went down on the track. It was right in a small town. We saw that we would be laid up for some time at the best.

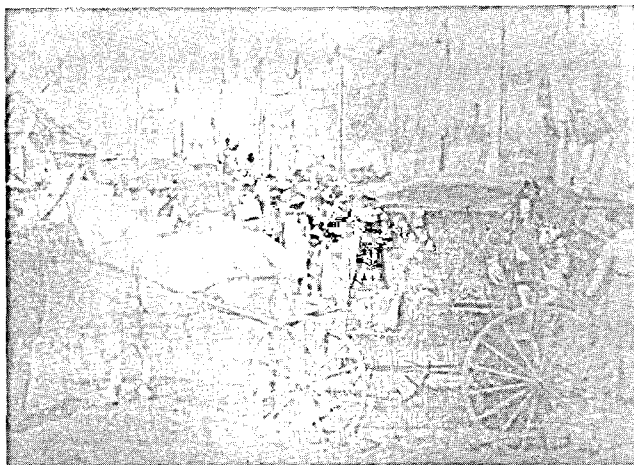
I could see a little restaurant sign over a block or so away. I said to the boys I am going to get something to eat. We all made a run for the sign and burst through the door at once. An old man and two old ladies ran the joint. It, being Sunday, they did not expect any business and had just gotten up and had not made any coffee. There was only one loaf of bread in the joint. One old lady started to grind coffee and the old man started in on that loaf of bread. Believe me he could cut a slice of bread the thinnest I have ever seen any where. With a touch of butter he

The Gollmar elephant car is shown upside down and the pole wagon is shown on the ground on left. Author's Collection.





The Gollmar Bros. Steam calliope and four horse hitch. The insert is of the author, Adrian D. Sharpe, who played the calliope on the show in 1905. Author's Collection.



The midway of the Gollmar show just before "doors" on July 12, 1905 in Blue Earth City, Minn. Author's Collection.

called it a sandwich and sold it for a nickel. I was the first through the door so got the first sandwich which was just about one mouthful for me. With that the boys all yelled here's a man with a sandwich—throw him out. Out I went. No seconds. They had to send the engine to some other place for flat cars. A system flat was only 32 feet long and the circus flats were 60 feet, so they had to bring in two flats from some place to replace the one we had. We were held up a good share of the day. The run being 165 miles we never got into Adrian, Michigan until in the night.

I did not get up to get something to eat so went into the cook house the next morning about seven o'clock. Just about missed eating that Sunday but I was getting used to circus life. While meals were sometimes next to none I did enjoy it. Nothing like a change. May 22nd we were in Adrian, Michigan. It was a nice town. I was walking over to the lot Monday morning. I will have to admit that I saw the finest Advance Car of a Circus I have ever looked at. It was Carl Hagenback Trained Animal Advance Car. It was all painted white with some color back ground and all kinds of wild animals in jungle scenes. Their advertising did not do the Gollmar's any good. I must say it was some advertising car. I don't remember what the weather was the next day or so.

We played Coldwater, Michigan on Wednesday the 24th. The lot was the worse I have ever seen. It was a cornfield where the corn had been cut off the Fall before. On top of that, it had rained like all get out during the parade and not good in the afternoon. That morning as I was going to the lot for breakfast Fred's (the Advance Agent's) wife was at the edge of the lot. She was pushing her two year

old son in a push cart and with the condition of the lot was not doing too well. I offered to assist her. So I picked up (the future Baraboo Judge) cart and all and carried him to the Cook Tent.

The next three days were spent in Indiana and Illinois near Chicago, Geneseo, Illinois for Saturday and Marengo, Iowa Sunday and Monday. The run to Marengo was 115 miles. As Fred Gollmar was leaving the lot in Geneseo to go to Chicago to see the railroad man, Charley called to him and said, "Fred we have been getting in too late, call them ON IT." That night when we left for Marengo on the Rock Island they cleared up the line for the fast Passenger and put us right behind and we never stopped all the way into Marengo. I was sleeping in a top berth and that car rocked like a cradle. Had the rods come out from under that flat on that run, there would have been nothing left of the tail end of that train. And we were on the tail end. I was down to the runs Monday night and talked to the train men that gave us the fast ride Saturday night. He said we had orders to wheel you up a little. I think there were different orders the next run for the ride was much different going into Iowa City, our Tuesday stand. Tuesday, May 30th we were in Iowa City, a University Town.

When we made the parade I was playing Calliope in the last end and saw three cops following behind. All at once we ran into about ten or fifteen hundred howling college students. They were taking over the street and followed us all the way to the lot. Fred Worrell was the fixer, and the police had asked him for help from the Circus Crew if things got out of hand. When we got to the Show Lot the boys were still with us and some trouble did turn up. A special police, one for the day, when rushed by the gang took one long bat at the ring leader with his club and the guy went down. When they lifted him up, his

head looked like a chunk of raw meat. That bunch of hoodlums shut up like a rat trap. They put the guy in a buggy and hauled him down town and all the gang followed them. That took care of the trouble that day.

The next day we were at Clinton, Iowa. Then on to DeKalb, Illinois and Lake Mills, Wisconsin with a 115 mile run to El Roy, Wisconsin for Sunday and Monday. Then on to Eau Claire, Wisconsin for Tuesday. That was the town in which I could have made my last trip. The Eau Claire River empties into the Chippewa River right there in town. High water was the order of the day. The show lot was on the Bank of the Chippewa and the water by afternoon raised so high that it covered a large part of the town across the river with water up to the second story windows on the houses. When the afternoon show was over the Gollmars moved out fast. No night show. So when I went over to the lot in the morning I crossed the Eau Claire River on a wooden foot bridge. When I went back in the afternoon I took the same route. When I came to the foot bridge it was all gone. I stopped in a Shoe Store and asked the man if this was the street where the foot bridge was. He came out and said, "Well I just came over it less than five minutes so. I wonder if any one was on that bridge when it went out?" If I had been three or four minutes earlier I might have been on that bridge and I would never have been missed until Parade time the next day.

The next couple of days were spent in Wisconsin. Then 165 mile run into Olivia, Minnesota for Friday; Saturday at Ortenville, Minnesota with Wappeton, North Dakota Sunday and Monday on the Red River. Breckenridge with its saloons, was just across the river. North Dakota being a Dry

State, they used the bridge across the river for the dividing line for drunks. Any drunks that wandered over on the Wappeton side landed in the clink. Well, like all young fellows Sunday evening I was told there was a big dance across the river that had good music so I went over. I found nothing but a cheap bowery with two men playing fiddle, two or three women and a dozen or two men. I started back to Wappeton. When I got to the river bridge I met a couple of Gollmar canvas men drunk at the bridge. They were afraid to go back across the bridge. They grabbed me by the arms and said, "Now, Calliope Man, you are sober and we are drunk. Let's all walk across together and the cops over there will think we are all sober." "Yes, I said, they will think we are all drunk." We kept arguing the case until we got to the middle of the bridge and I broke loose and ran. They followed me and it was our good luck no cops were in sight. I sent them up the river to the lot and I went down town. They were busy at work the next morning.

I think Wappeton is the town where the Ringling show had some canvas men killed by lightening when they were putting up the tent and the center pole was struck by lightening. A monument was erected in the cemetery where the men were buried. The monument is a center pole with a torn piece of canvas half way up on the pole. A fitting tribute to the men who were killed there on duty. (However if I am not correct please correct) In Coperstown, Wednesday, June 14th, the wind was so strong it blew the big tent down twice before it could be raised. Charley said let it go but the Boss Canvas Man said no. We have the men and will get it up. They succeeded and we had a fair crowd. The next day at Jamestown with Bismarck, North Dakota (the State Capital) to follow.

When we got to Bismarck the Norris and Rowe Advance Car was in town billing. While we were at dinner, the Norris and Rowe Agent had the

nerve to come to the Cook Tent and ask Charley if he had any objections to their covering our paper. Well, Charley's eyes just popped. He said lay off our paper until eight o'clock tonight. They did but at that they had the nerve to hook their Advance Car on the rear of our train and ride it all the way back to Jamestown. We went north to Carrington, North Dakota for our Saturday stand a 142 mile jump. We made a 160 mile jump to Minot for Sunday and Monday. The town was full of bums waiting for the harvest. They hung around while the help was paid off Sunday evening at the car. We thought they might try a hold up. I, for one, stayed in that Sunday evening. Bullard, the porter, said the car would be locked at dark and for those not wanting to stay out side to remain in the car. Nothing happened.

Wednesday, June 24th, we were at Devils Lake. The Indians had gathered there for a month waiting to see the circus. A forty acre field next to the lot was covered with small teepees. When the show was ready to open the Indians all sat down in front of the Marquee and would not move. They had to be let in first. When they got inside, the red reserve seats took their eye and all went on the reserves. I was taking tickets on the reserves and could do nothing with them. A young Indian with his family came along. He could speak good English. I said you will have to pay 25c to sit in the reserves and I made a deal with him. If he would get those Indians to pay or get off I would let him and his family have seats for nothing. The battle was on. The young Indian got out in front and told them in their lanugage to pay 25c get out and move over the blue seats. They all came down and paid me. At any rate I got a lot of money.

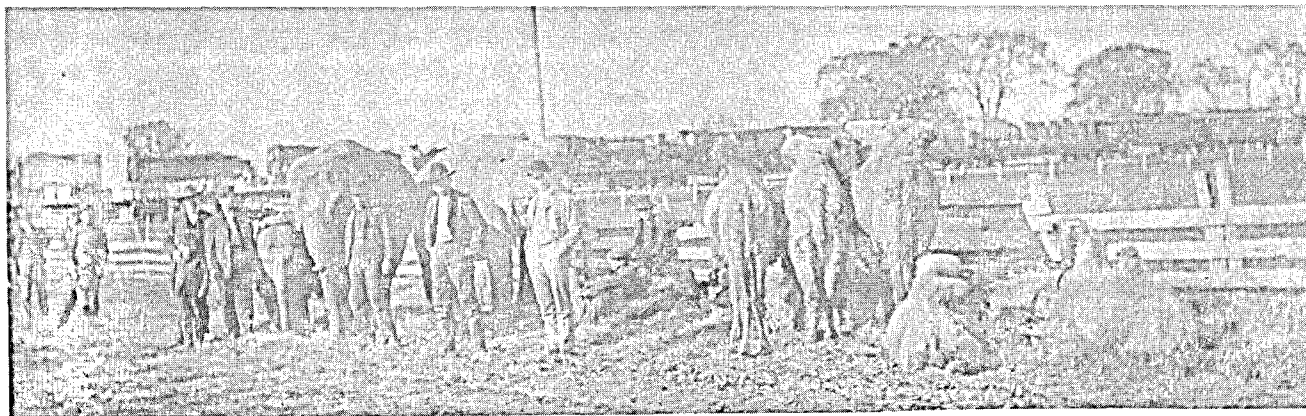
On the run to Devils Lake there were some loose cars on the track and

our train ran into them. They said it drove the tender body right into the first load of horses and killed some. I don't remember how many. One of the black horses that was on the six horse hitch that pulled the Calliope was killed. A new black horse was purchased in Berlin, Wisconsin to fill out the six black team. I do know they buried some horses there as I saw them do it. Some bay horses were hurt and left at the Livery Barn Stable for the Railroad to look after. When they shipped them back to the Show later they were in bad shape. Hardly fit to put to work. Well, that will take care of Devils Lake for June 21st.

At Langdon, North Dakota, Tuesday June 22nd was the biggest day of the year. At least that was the report. They had a cyclone there some time before. There was a strip right through town that had all new shingled roofs where the storm had torn them off. Now, this is something you can believe or not. An elevator had been picked up and set down over the Railroad Water Tank. All I could see missing on the water tank was the spout that ran the water into the engines. Nothing had been moved since the storm. I suppose the Railroad and Elevator Company were trying to find out who or how they were going to get the elevator off the tank. Nothing much more happened in North Dakota.

We Sundayed in Thief River Falls, Minnesota. Monday, June 26th, I think it was, a man brought in two black bears and wanted to sell them. He was around all day Sunday and late Monday night Charley bought them both for \$18.00. Charley sent me down to the runs with the fellow while they were loading. I was to instruct Ben to pay them \$18.00. They put the bears in a small cage. The next morning one was standing on his hind legs with head and front half out of the cage. They had torn the top out of the cage. Something had to be done, so they chained them out on a stake during the day and got a larger cage for them at night. That more

Elephants and lead stock during a watering stop. The loaded train is shown in background. Author's Collection.





The Gollmar train just after arriving in town, show personal walking from the coaches. Pfening Collection.

or less took care of the bears. We spent the next few days around the Lakes in Minnesota with very good weather. We hit Alexandria, Minnesota for our Sunday and Monday stand. Sunday, July 2nd, was hot but a nice day. We were on the edge of a beautiful lake. We spent all day in the lake. The boys took the two black bears to the lake and the bears did enjoy the water. That night about two o'clock I heard it raining on the car roof and thought it would be over by morning. In the morning it was still coming down in sheets and never let up all day. When I reached the lot I was wet through and through. To make it worse it kept right on raining the next three days. Well by Thursday it had cleared up. The Norris and Rowe Show had caught up with us. We played Morris on Friday July 7th, the day following their show there.

The Norris and Rowe show was only off the lot about eight hours when we moved on but with the real old circus billing they had wakened up the people and we had very good business. Our agent, who had been there fighting them, said that Norris and Rowe put out more tickets than we did for Daub Space. They had banners on house tops. So all in all Gollmars might have come out best in the fight.

We played Benson, Minnesota Saturday with a 125 mile run down to Canby, Minnesota for Sunday and Monday. We had a very nice week through Southern Minnesota and moved into Sparta, Wisconsin for Friday. We hit Berlin, Wisconsin for Sunday and Monday. Sunday night in Berlin, was the hottest night I ever went through. Our car was near the City Light Plant. They ran their Light Plant with a steam engine. I sat for hours near that big wheel that drove the plant. It was about twenty feet in diameter and it kept the air stirred

up so one could get a little breeze. We got plenty of breeze the next day. A wind came up and NEARLY BLEW the show away. There were about three hundred people who had come to see the show. They went in on the lee side of the top to get away from the wind. They insisted on staying there even though our men warned them against it. They told them that should the tent blow over it would come right down on top of them and nothing our men could do they would not be able to get them out. It came near going several times. We spent the next few days in Wisconsin.

Now, here is one for Ripleys "BELIEVE IT OR NOT." I do not remember what town we were in Wisconsin or it could have been over in Minnesota. One of our long string drivers laid down behind his horses and fell asleep. The horse backed up and set his foot on the man's head just above his ear. The big cork on the horse shoe drove a piece of the skull into the man's brain. The fellow was crazy with pain. The Gollmars tried to leave him in town where he could be taken care of but the fellow refused to stay. They told him unless something was done he would die. The fellow said then he would die. Dr. Tyron, a young fellow playing the horn in the band and Dr. Fitzgerald, who was on tickets and making announcements, talked it over. Dr. Tyron said he thought what was causing the severe pain was the pressure of the skull on the brain. He thought he might be able to pry it up. So the Gollmars told the guy he would have to be taken somewhere to have it taken care of or let the boys on the show do it but he would have

to take his own chances on the outcome.

He said the boys could do it regardless of the results. The next afternoon was nice. A large shade tree was on the back of the lot. The boys made a bed down under the tree. Dr. Fitzgerald administered the anesthetic and Dr. Tyron did the job. He pried the piece of skull off of the brain. It took all afternoon. The fellow was kept in the car for a day and was back on the lot for meals and in a week he was driving his six horse hitch.

Dr. Tyron was a clever boy. Today the job would have cost the show \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 dollars. Nothing much out of the ordinary was on deck for the next few days. We went down through Southern Wisconsin into Illinois and Northwest Iowa for three or four day stands.

Then back up across the State to Keewaunee, Wisconsin on Lake Michigan for Saturday and to Arcadia for a Sunday and Monday stand. Keewaunee being right on the Lake, we were loading Saturday night near the Lake front. There was a big lake steamer loading for Milwaukee. It was one of those big side wheel drive kind much used in those days. Someone asked them how long it would take to run to Arcadia. It was 228 miles and they said most of Sunday. Some of the boys said, "How would you like to take a trip down to Milwaukee on the boat tonight and run over to Arcadia for the Monday Show?" The fellows that were talking were Tom Nelson, Tom Pettit, Harry Wertz and some others. I thought if the boys all go down on the steamer and the fare is not too much I would like to go along. They asked the ticket agent for the boat where Arcadia was and if it was near Milwaukee. He said down close to Milwaukee. Tom Nelson said let's not take the fellows word for it and

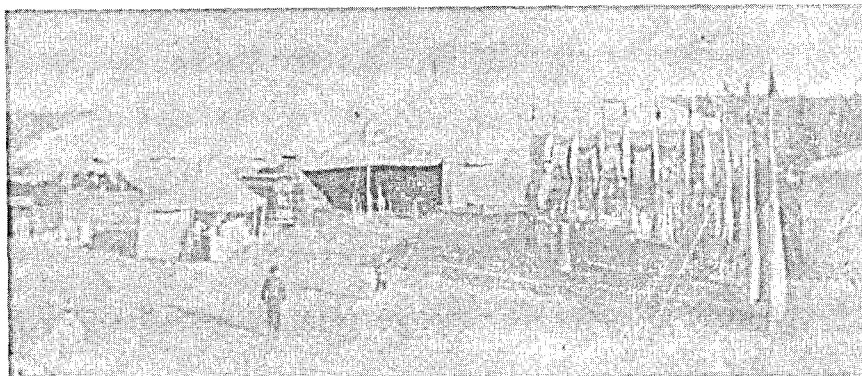
got a map and looked it up. We found Arcadia was almost as far from Milwaukee as we were so that ended the idea right quick. We had quite a long run to Arcadia, 228 miles. We ran for hours through burnt forest and it gave us an idea what fire can do.

The next week we were showing through Central Wisconsin. As I remember it the weather was good. Saturday, August 19th, we were in Winona, Minnesota. The town was full of people but business was poor as in a town like this the people were accustomed to shows like Ringling or Barnum. We had a run for Sunday to Viroqua. It was on a small line railroad. I think the Viroqua Railroad is now listed as the Green Bay and Western. I do remember they had only five engines on the line and up through the hills was a forty mile run. I don't know how many engines they used to haul our circus but about ten o'clock we found the two sleepers, one flat car and elephant car sitting at a little lone station.

After sitting there for an hour or so and nearing noon, a passenger train went through and stopped. The conductor got out and unlocked the door to a little house that had a company telephone. I followed along to hear what I could and could tell he was talking to the Dispatcher. Wally Gollmar was walking around with the rest of us. He said who was he talking to. I said I thought the dispatcher. Wally just bounced and in he went and said, "Let me talk to that dispatcher." He talked to him and told him to hitch us to the back of the passenger train. The conductor argued that he could not get over the hill with our four cars hitched on behind.

After some strong debate the conductor set out one coach and hitched us on. We went along for awhile and then got stuck on the hill. The conductor said "I told you so." Wally replied, "Well you can just sit here with us." We sat there for some time. Finally an engine came through from Arcadia and this gave us a double header. We finally got in but it was late for dinner. Sure some railroad. We went to LaCrosse, Wisconsin for Tuesday.

We followed Barnum and Bailey there, with not too much business. The rest of the week we were in Southern Wisconsin with no long hauls. Sunday and Monday were in Stockton, Illinois. The next few days in Postville, Iowa for our Sunday and Monday stand, September 4th. Mr. Orrin Hollis and Kittie Kruger, riders, joined the circus here. I could be wrong on the date but it was near that time. They had spent the summer on the famous Wm. P. Hall Shows out at Lancaster, Missouri. The Hall show closed on August 30th and they came



This Sunday lay out shows the Gollmar show at Canby, Minn. on July 10, 1905. Author's Collection.

over and finished the Season on the Gollmar Show. They brought their own horse to ride. Both did a separate riding act, using the same horse.

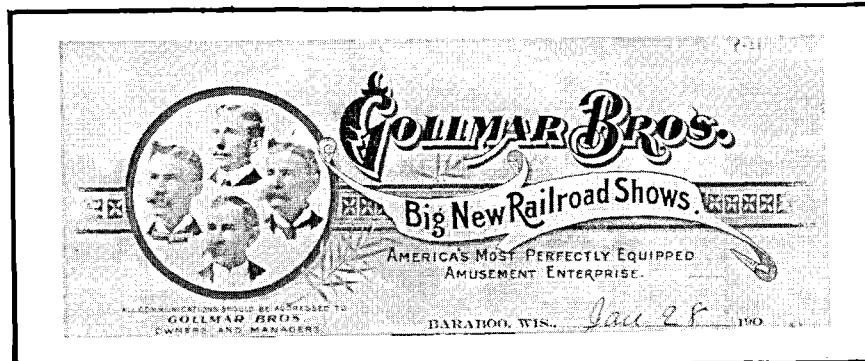
The information I received is that Kittie Kruger went over to the Sells Floto Show where she stayed permanently. I got the closing date of the Hall Show from the story in the November December 1966 Bandwagon. While in Postville, I talked with one of the City Men and he said we like shows like Gollmar Brothers here. When you people were in Prairie Du Chein, Wisconsin, across the Mississippi river a month ago I went over to see your show in a row boat. We had a nice day at Postville so you can see what a good reputation will do in a business way.

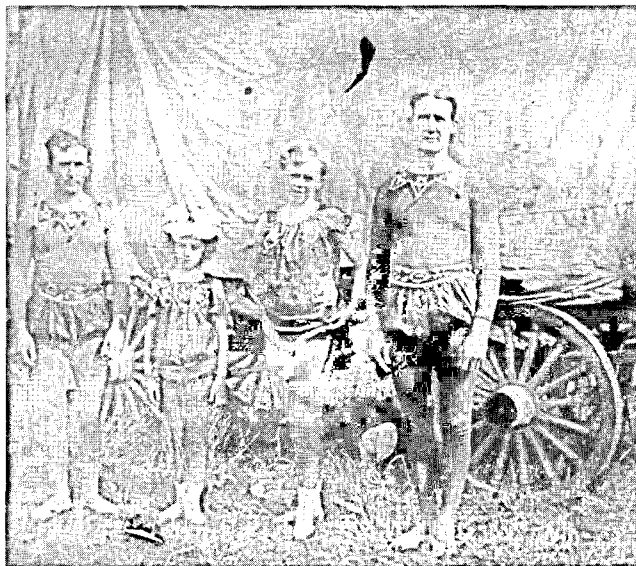
We were having nice Fall Weather and being in Iowa I felt like I was getting near home. The show made a run across Iowa, spending the next Sunday and Monday at Oakland, Nebraska. The haul was only thirty miles so we had most of the day there. Not much happened here only in the evening. The boys were driving the big tent stakes to be ready for morning. There were three old ladies walking along just taking in the sights. There was a little tent tiolet nearby. Elick

The 1905 Gollmar Bros. Circus letterhead is printed in purple and gold. The same design was used in 1904 also. Pfening Collection.

Lowanda's ring mule got loose and came running through the crowd. The three old ladies with a quick look hastily took refuge in the toilet tent but upon finding Dell Smith, one of the Band Men in there, they came out with a whoop almost demolishing the tent. Well, that took care of the excitement for that Sunday evening. The balance of the week was spent in Eastern, Nebraska with some nice weather. A 200 mile run was made back into Iowa for Sunday and Monday at Ida Grove, Iowa September 18th.

The run was along one on a Sunday afternoon when we stopped at a water tank for water for the engine. Right next to the train was an apple orchard with nice big, red apples. By four o'clock in the afternoon they did look good. I never believed in stealing but those red apples could not be passed up. I was sitting on one of the flat cars and made a dive for those apples. I was not alone, for a bunch of the fellows also landed in the orchard. An old man came running out of the house with a club raised high over his head. I grabbed a few nice apples and ran for the train. The train was just beginning to roll. Several of the ladies had their heads sticking out of the windows of the sleeper looking hungry. I divided my apples with them as the car rolled by, saved one for myself and caught the last car. If any the fellows had been left he sure would have been in bad with that old man for with that big club he did look vicious. We showed at Ida Grove Monday. The weather was nice. For





The Maxwell-Nelson Flying Act. Left to right: Jimmie Maxwell; Viola and Mert Heffner and Tom Nelson. Author's Collection.

some reason we did not show at night. The run to the next town was only 35 miles. The show left town about five o'clock. I was standing on the back end of the caboose. A couple of the Candy butchers on the circus had picked up a couple of girls and were walking down Main Street. The Circus engine gave a couple of whistle blasts for out of town. If you ever saw two girls left like a couple of cold potatoes that happened to them. The boys ran as fast as they could and only lacked a finger length of reaching the tail end of the train but got left. They did not get back for our Tuesday stand at Sac City but came to Lake City only to be told their services were no longer needed. You know, girls can get a fellow in a lot of trouble and it did cost those two fellows their jobs.

We spent the next few days in Western Iowa with Sunday and Monday at Carson, Iowa. They had a nice

lot in a park with a small lake and nice weather. There was an old water slide tower near there. It had been a long time since it had been used. Some of the boys were in the lake and dug up an old slide boat all covered with green moss, from the bottom of the lake. About twenty or more of the fellows dragged the old boat to the top of the slide and all got in. About ninety per cent were in the back end. They had some ride coming down but when they hit the water, all being loaded in the back end, the boat turned upside down putting them all under the boat. We thought some would be drowned but all got out and it ended in fun. We spend Tuesday at Greenfield, Iowa. Then 120 mile run to Plattsmouth, Nebraska on the Missouri River.

If you ever saw a circus on edge it was here. How they ever got the circus tent and seats up the hill is one for the books. However, "Where there's a Will there's a Way." We did have nice weather and a good crowd. We went from there into Windsor, Missouri for Sunday and Monday, October 2nd. The run was 120 miles. We arrived late. The next few days we spent in Missouri. The weather was getting Fall and every one felt the Season would soon be over. We spent our last Sunday and Monday of 1905 in Bowling Green, Missouri on October 9th. Then over into Illinois where we closed on October 12th at Moweaqua with a mileage for the Season 11,359 miles, about 85 miles per day average not including the run into Baraboo. While I had not earned much money I did have an enjoyable summer outside of a couple days sickness following heavy rains at Alexandria, Minnesota everything was fine for me. Good meals, lodging I was accustomed to long hours on the farm. I had said I was going to do something easier than farming but when I joined the



The Clown alley of 1905 — 1 to r standing: Mr. Sardell, a barrel jumper; Mr. Brisson, a contortionist; unidentified man; Mr. Potter, trapeze performer; Mr. Bradon, clown; Mr. Smith, clown. Seated: Mr. Wyman, clown and Mr. LeRex, trapeze performer. Author's Collection.

circus I jumped from the frying pan into the fire. At \$8.00 per week I thought I was low man as far as salaries were concerned. I never told many what I was getting but I learned later that John White, the front door man, was only drawing what I was and he was an old man at the business.

Harry Wertz was only getting \$20.00 per week and he was Equestrian Director and had been with the show for years. He spent his last few days in Long Beach, California and lived only a few blocks from me. I was talking to Fred Warrell, the fixer, who was drawing \$40.00 per week. I said Fred how come you draw \$40.00 and me only \$8.00. His reply was when you have been in the business as long as I have and make as good a man of yourself you can draw the same amount. I asked Charley for a raise another year and the reply was you have been paid all you have earned. I did a little better the next year on the Yankee Robinson Show. (See article in October-November Bandwagon.)

I will have to say Gollmars did give their help fine treatment and they received every dollar they agreed to pay them.

Fred Warrell was a good man who later on became general manager of Ringling Brothers and Fred told me a lot about fixing jobs on a Circus and even let me help him with some small jobs which knowledge I put to good use the next year over on the wagon show, a young man starting out can learn a lot if he is not against doing a little extra work for nothing.

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM

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A BRUSH, A BUCKET OF PASTE AND LOTS OF GUTS

by ART DOC MILLER

The wildest daub I ever made was on the hull of an old three mast schooner anchored off the Nova Scotia shore. I'd slipped a dory owner ducats to row me out and while the sea had looked smooth as glass, once in that bobbing boat I realized the incoming tide was creating sizable swells that tossed us all around. Reaching the ship I stood up to wet it down, but the waves would put my brush about five foot higher or lower than I wanted. Slapping the paper on was worse yet, the dory usually racing away so that I would almost fall into the drink. The finished daub looked plenty crude, but from the wharves looked OK and lit up the harbor.

But I'm getting ahead of my story. The agent for Al G. Field's Minstrels blew into my home town and lucky 12 year old me, was joined out for the day. Promised a free ticket, all I had to do was go along a block ahead of him and rip down offending cards announcing the arrival of the Mighty Doris Shows. As I raced along joyfully destroying the midway paper and thinking about seeing the greatest of all minstrel shows, something happened. I was grabbed by the hair, shaken till breathless, then tossed into a convenient mud puddle. A rough bewhiskered character glared down at me, vowing certain death if I touched another hunk of his paper. Much later I learned such playful encounters carried the innocent term of 'opposition'.

Billers and lithographers are a strange breed and seldom mix with earth people. Their ability lies in the fact that they can out talk most property owners and manage to get up paper where it is often not wanted. In addition they know exactly where to put it for best results, plus the fact that it'll live till show day. It only takes a second to glimpse a daub or window hit, but the biller may have spent nearly an hour to square it.

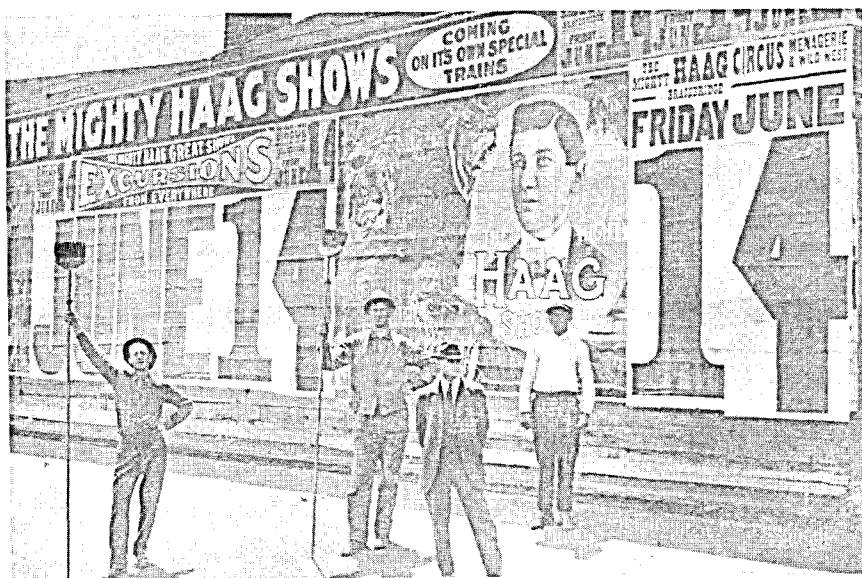
There are always town jerks like the two birds up in a Vermont town. One brother owns a junk yard with a fence well decorated with layers of paper. Across the road in an office building is his brother, but a biller in new territory doesn't realize this. So after much haggling with the junk man he settles for eight passes and proceeds to toss up his paper and get down the road. When finished, over comes the attorney brother screaming. "Who gave you permission to touch MY fence". Well to make a long story



When another shows billing remained following a date smaller shows often retitled the pictorial paper and posted their own dates. Charlie Hunt's Eddy Bros. used some Robbins Bros. paper in this 1938 photo.

short, his gal Friday has phoned the law who arrives quick-like, and the crafty junk brother has decamped. After considerable threats, a compromise is made, (15) more tickets and a ten dollar bill out of the biller's pocket. Then there are the kids who pull wings off live birds, and grow up to louse up every one they can. A biller can spend considerable time attempting to square or even strong arm a big down town empty, with out results. Comes circus day and the town clown will make a special visit to the office

This daub of the Mighty Haag Railroad Shows for a 1912 date at Bracebridge, Ontario, had just been completed by a proud billing crew.



wagon to report what a lousy crew they have up ahead, as they 'missed' a big empty down town! It is also amazing the number of other-wise reputable citizens who make it a practice to pull live paper for their collections. Fortunately, the good fans outnumber the stinkers.

The amusing and often startling incidents a biller encounters would fill a book. Once I squared a pig pen shed with a farmer's wife and when half through was startled to hear a loud voice roar—"Hold on there, who gave you permission, etc." Whirling around I gazed right into the barrel of a 12 gauge shot gun held by an ugly looking character. No amount of talking soothed his temper until he noted I'd posted over a good sized hole in the siding. Suddenly his manner changed and he remarked "Will that stuff keep the cold wind off the hogs?—to which I assured him the shed would keep warm as toast. "OK, go ahead put



three layers on" and he walked away.

Many years ago while tacking carnival paper in southern Illinois I was grabbed by the throat, a revolver stuck in my belly and a weaving drunk demanded to know where I'd hid his wife. It seemed a life time later before he released his grip on my neck and I realized he figured I was the bird with a Tom Show who had promoted his frau. It took some fast talking to convince him he had the wrong party,—in fact I gave him such a tale of woe that he was certain billposters were such over-worked folks that they plumb forgot women existed.

Quebec is different and anything can happen there. I wasn't having much luck with my French interpreter for squaring daubs. Then I discovered he was more interested in making dates with the good looking farm wives, completely forgetting to inquire about the daubs. Like all billers I attended the PTA meetings and met a beautiful Polish gal that spoke both French and 'Parfict Ainglish' so I joined her out as interpreter but that's another story. It always worked out nicely to ask the Quebecers if you could put an announcement on their building and give them free passes. Now in those days their idea of an announcement was a 11x14 card, so one store keeper came out as I'd finished a 27 sheet daub on the side of his store, looked at it in horror and screamed "Oh what a big announce!"

About the weirdest Quebec experi-

The use of "group billboards" was not uncommon during the late 1920s, as shown in this three billboard stand of the (King Bros.) Gentry Bros. Circus.

ence was when working alone using a "typed-in-French" card to square the daubs. The country route was an endless string of tiny peasant farms,



in a sad state of neglect. I stopped at the place in question and two of the worst dirty looking old cronies answered my knock, read the card and all smiles, nodded in unison. As I walked back to the truck, they came right

This large stand for the Pawnee Bill Wild West show covered two dates. The livery stable is typical of the early nineteen hundreds.



along and when I picked up the bucket of paste, one pushed me aside and insisted on carrying it while the other then pulled the brush and paper out of my hands and away we went to the barn, the women laughing and playfully giving me friendly pushes towards each other. If you can imagine two toothless, straggly haired, flat

The King and Queen of Billers, Jackie and Bill Wilcox are shown in front of one of their big daubs for the (Bud Anderson) Seal Bros. Circus in 1935.

chested dames dressed in ankle length crazy dresses, you can visualize what a mess I was in. They were drunk as hoot owls and with six hands on the brush handle we somehow got the paper up. By now I wondered if I could really escape as they seemed to imagine "Hurrah! our prayers are answered—A man! a man!" Reaching for my empty bucket I started to get the H out of there when they each grabbed an arm and gestured wildly at the house. The more I dug my heels in the ground, the harder they pulled. By then they decided I was a bit slow on romance, so one leaped at me, with a bear hug and kisses, just as the other playfully tripped me and down we went in a dog pile. I pushed them off, raced to the truck and vamoosed. I presume they still look fondly at my stub brush and bucket, I had no desire to ever go back and retrieve them.

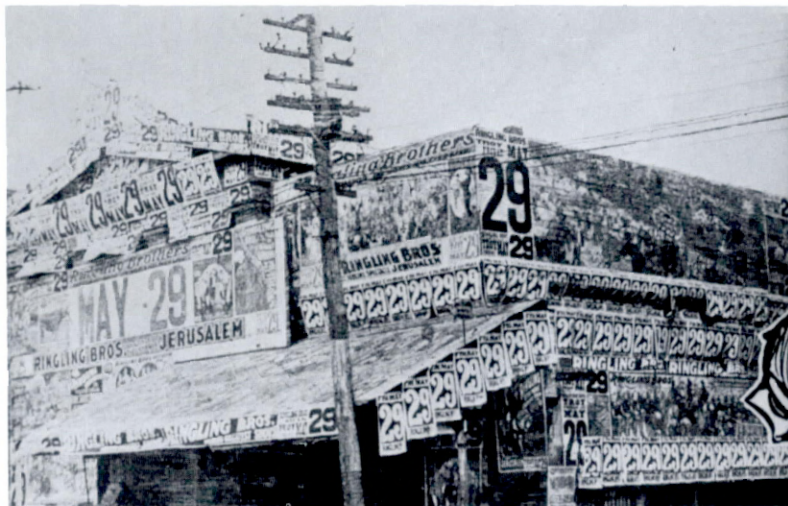
Once in Missouri I just had to get a certain town barn as we were day and dating a dramatic show. It was owned

by a retired farmer who hated shows, but I Had to get that hit. Reaching his home I saw the old guy sitting on the porch so went into my pitch which drew complete silence on his part. Then I re-hashed giving a glowing description of our remarkable act of trained pigs (non-existent, of course) but this too drew continued silence. Somewhat glumly I stood thinking what new approach to make when I noticed a woman had come to the door and stood listening. She shrilly cried out—"Now Pa, you know the church is against them thar shows, don't you go a letting that thar man put stuff on our barn". Feeling sunk, I happened to again look at the farmer whose face suddenly appeared furious. Spitting out his chaw of tobacco, he fairly yelled at me. "Go ahead and put up your dern posters, no stupid woman is a'going to tell me what to do".

Once up in Maine I was lithoing a string of derelict stores and as I gingerly stepped into a dark interior, with a crash, the entire floor plunged into the water filled cellar. Knocked semi unconscious, I'd swallowed a lot of the filthy stagnant water, my eyes were blinded with silt, my drenched clothing was torn to shreds and I had a sprained ankle, cracked ribs plus a wrenched shoulder. From then on, I had great respect for old buildings.

Near Mansfield, Pa., I raced up a highway gravel bank to tack a banner on an old shack and started an avalanche of loose stones. With legs wide spread to hold my balance, I heard a rattler buzzing away and the next second down he came with the stones and right between my legs, continuing out into the highway, where a car ran over his head.

Another time making a daub I stirred up some bumble bees and one angry grand daddy stung me on the eye lid causing instant blindness. As I staggered around that weed patch, the nicest female voice I ever heard asked me what had happened. Then she ordered me to stand still and she'd lead me back to my truck. Once in the cab



When thousands of sheets of paper were used daily by the big circuses, bill stands like this one were possible. This was for the May 29, 1903 date of the Ringling show in Troy, N. Y.

she suggested I sit still while she walked across the road to her home and fixed some soda paste. In spite of the blindness I felt mighty lucky to have such a swell gal right handy as a nurse. Mentally I pictured her as a beautiful 20 year old gorgeous creature and hoped she was single. Hours later when my sight started to come back she returned to the truck and imagine my astonishment to see she was a very nice little old great grand mother.

Once a bundle of pictorials had been stored in the bull car and when shipped up ahead they fairly reeked of elephant dung. The lithographers

were mad about having to carry such stinking paper so tossed it up on the glass as quickly as possible and departed elsewhere. Soon the various store keepers could be seen sniffing the air and wondering where the heady unfamiliar aroma was coming from.

Another time I had just forwarded most of my money as a donation to a tribe of lost Eskimos and then my salary didn't arrive. Sending an s-o-s wire brought no funds, nor did a sharper request. In desperation I composed the following telegram. "Corpse found on local street — death due to starvation — passes on body identify him with your show — please wire burial funds at once." This promptly got me my pay and I think illustrates how a biller needs ready wit and a glib tongue.

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Nov. - Dec. 1968

Fred D. Pfening, Jr., Editor

Joseph T. Bradbury, Fred D. Pfening, III Associate Editors

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THIS MONTH'S COVER

After a couple of years we are again pleased to offer a color reproduction of a fine piece of circus art work.

This color courier was used by the Ringling Bros. World's Greatest Shows in 1904. The original is from the Pfening Collection.

* CHRISTMAS GREETINGS *
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* CIRCUSWISE *
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1969 CONVENTION SET

The Circus Historical Society will hold their Convention in 1969 in Baraboo, Wisconsin, in June, prior to the loading out of the Train of Many Circuses for Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The two day affair dates will be announced when the loading date of the Train is determined. Also more information will be forthcoming in the Bandwagon as to the program of activities for these dates, as information becomes available. This announcement is designed to allow the members to plan their vacations early for 1969 to coincide with the programmed Circus offerings in Baraboo and Milwaukee — Gay Hartman

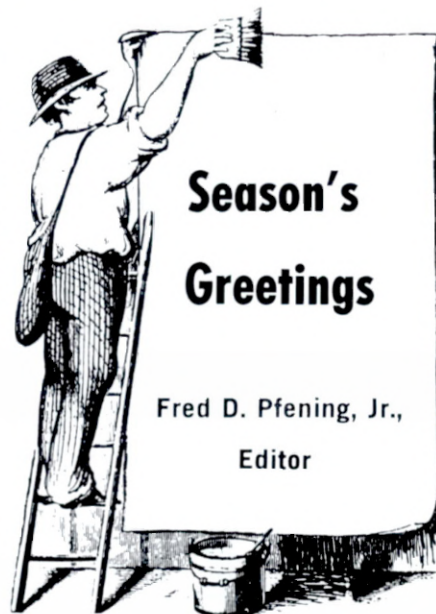
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Question and Answer Box

GOLLMAR 1924-25 JULY-AUGUST 1968

I have enjoyed very much reading Joe Bradbury's article on the 1924-25 Gollmar Bros. Circus. I thought perhaps he would print the complete route for the expanded 10 car show in 1925, but it did not appear. I have the route as compiled by the late Vernon Reaver. His files are just about complete from 1905 on. I have only parts of the earlier Gollmar route as he never paid attention to the route of any show less than 10 cars. Here is the route:

September
14 M Peru, Indiana
15 T Tipton, Indiana
16 W Frankfort, Indiana
17 T Rockville, Indiana
18 F Paris, Illinois
19 S Arcola, Illinois
20 SUNDAY
21 M Newton, Illinois
22 T Grayville, Illinois
23 W Henderson, Kentucky
24 T Sturgis, Kentucky
25 F Providence, Kentucky
26 S Marion, Kentucky
27 SUNDAY
28 M Cadiz, Kentucky
29 T Princeton, Kentucky
30 W Central City, Kentucky
October
1 T Madisonville, Kentucky
2 F Hopkinsville, Kentucky
3 S Springfield, Tennessee
4 SUNDAY
5 M Gallatin, Tennessee
6 T Dickson, Tennessee
7 W Waverly, Tennessee
8 T Murray, Kentucky
9 F McKenzie, Tennessee
10 S Martin, Tennessee
11 SUNDAY
12 M Hickman, Kentucky
13 T Tiptonville, Tennessee
14 W Ripley, Tennessee
15 T Covington, Tennessee

End of Season
Winter Quarters: West Baden, Indiana

I thought perhaps this might add something to the record.

You perhaps have one in your file, but I have an 8-page multi-colored courier of the 1924 Gollmar show titled "Gollmar Bros. World Toured Shows." This came from the A. Morton Smith Collection and in pencil on the sides is written "my first show, 5 cars, Bob Stevens." It is almost identical to a 1921 Lamont Bros. courier with the cover being the same except where the clown head appears there is the two brothers portrait. This appears to be a stock Erie Litho print job. It certainly is colorful.

I was glad to see you print the information Bob Taber sent in on Snyder and Floto. The newspaper information I have follows the same story as Bob tells. He asked me about this some time ago. — Don Carson

WANTS TO DATE H-W PHOTOS

I have 18 pictures taken by the late Ken Couchman, of the Hagenbeck Wallace shown unloading at Utica, N.Y. I would like to date these pictures but I need your help.

I figure they are after 1915 as two canvas spool wagons are being unloaded in one photo and before 1920 as the flats are wood.

This is as far as I can go and I was hoping for further help from routes in those years.

I am willing to forward the pictures providing they can be returned and I know their would be no objection to

printing in "Bandwagon" provided credit were given to Mr. Couchman, and assuming they might be of interest.

Thus my question is, did "Hagenbeck-Wallace" play Utica, N. in 1916, 17, 18 or 19. — A. Bruce Tracy

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Julian Jiminez, Treas.

Receipts and Disbursements for the Period May 1, 1967 thru April 30, 1968.

Bank Balance 5/1/67	\$1,970.08
Cash on hand 5/1/67 (April Collection)	\$2,576.20

Receipts for period 5/1/67 thru 4/30/68

Memberships	\$6,120.00	
New Members	319.50	
Subscriptions	838.05	
Back Issues	703.30	
Advertising	431.50	
Reimbursed from Convention	891.26	9,303.61

(Schedule Attached)

Total Deposits for period 5/1/67 thru 4/30/68	\$11,879.81
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Disbursements

Bandwagon Printing	\$7,317.56
Envelopes for Bandwagon Mailing	246.93
Bandwagon Postage	235.00
Bandwagon Mailing	180.00
Addressing Machine & Supply Co. Inc.	212.55
Office Supplies for Treas.	69.31
Secretary Expense	80.00
President Expense	17.35
Cash Advance To Pres. for Convention	200.00
Convention Expenses (Meals, etc.)	485.40
Donation to B.P.O.E.	100.00
Treasurers Bond	25.00
Election Expenses	104.72
Flowers	28.67
Telephone Expense	49.90
Shut-in Expense (Virginia Holman)	25.00
Audit Fees (Evelyn Runyan)	25.00
Postage Expense (Other than Bandwagon)	134.45
Bank Charges	1.71
Checks Returned to Bank (3)	18.00

9,556.55 2,323.26

Bank Balance as of April 30, 1968

\$4,293.34

Prepared by Evelyn D. Runyan
Public Accountant

CIRCUS WORLD MUSEUM



BARABOO, WISCONSIN

Seasons Greetings

MAY THE COMING YEAR
BRING PEACE ON EARTH

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